

Everyone's talking about sex
at the Sex Panic confab in San Diego,
censorship forum in San Francisco.
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From A Day Without Art
to a world without AIDS:
World AIDS Day events.
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Vocal artist
Weslia Whitfield mines
the cabaret songbook.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 48 • 27 November 1997

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Turkey dinners abound for people in need

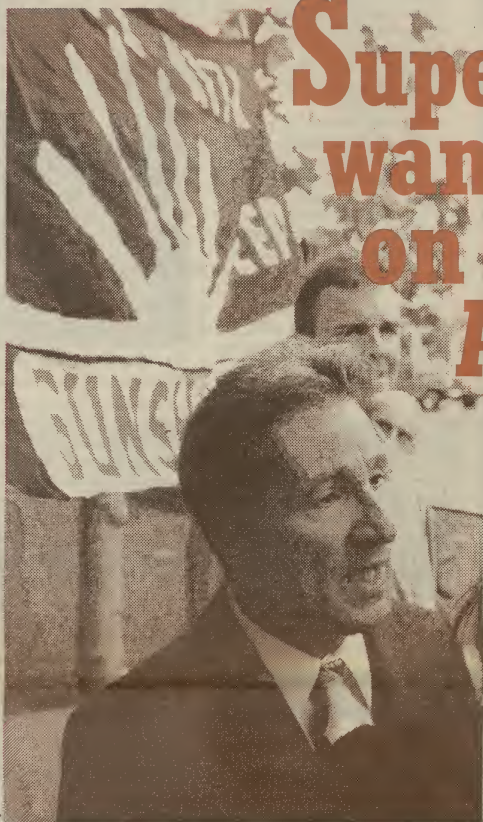
by Cynthia Laird

The holidays are not an easy time for everyone; many people have no family to welcome them on Thanksgiving, others may lack funds to visit friends or relatives. Fortunately, there are several agencies in the city that will be providing food, fellowship, and a good time for those who don't want to spend the day alone.

• Tenderloin Tessie Holiday Dinners will continue its tradition, now nearly a quarter-century old. This year the dining will be held at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin Street at Geary, from 1 to 4 p.m. Tenderloin Tessie expects to feed over 1,200 people. Donations of food, paper goods, and time are welcome. Call A.L. Allen at (415) 621-1169.

• The San Francisco AIDS Foundation will hold its 13th annual Thanksgiving dinner at the Westin-St. Francis Hotel. Free tickets are available through any San Francisco AIDS organization, and people do not need to be SFAF clients to enjoy the festivities. Dinners will be served starting at 11 a.m. and continue through 5 p.m. An estimated 1,500 meals will be provided, said spokesperson Derek Gordon. For information, call Shawn at (415) 487-3076.

• Glide Memorial Church received the first-ever gift of \$10,000 and 100 turkeys from the Morongo Indian Tribe to help with their Thanksgiving celebration. Reverend Cecil Williams will hold the Thanksgiving service at 10 a.m. Thursday, November 27. Afterwards, holiday meals will be served at the church kitchens, located at 330 Ellis Street, throughout the day. ▼



Sunshine on his shoulder makes him happy: Tom Ammiano at his November 24 press conference.

Supervisors want Sunshine on city-funded AIDS groups

by Mark Mardon

Soon a little more light may be shed on the way nonprofit AIDS service organizations do business in San Francisco, if Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Leslie Katz have their way. At a Monday, November 24 press conference at City Hall, Ammiano drew cheers from AIDS activists and others when he proposed a resolution requiring nonprofit organizations receiving city funds to abide by the same Sunshine Ordinance rules that now require city agencies to make their proceedings public. Katz has also signed onto the legislation.

The effect of the new ordinance, if adopted by the city, would be to require city-supported nonprofit organizations such as the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) to guarantee easy public access to all of its meetings and documents. In recent weeks, an outspoken coalition of AIDS activists and representatives from lesbian and gay organizations have been calling for just such reform to allow people a greater voice in the decision-making processes at SFAF and other AIDS organizations that serve them.

"San Francisco is lucky to have hundreds of large and small nonprofits that provide critical healthcare services," said Ammiano in introducing the resolution for hearings on the ordinance. "However,

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Great Guerneville gobblers!

by Ron Lazar

People with HIV/AIDS in Sonoma and Contra Costa Counties will be eating a lot heartier this Thanksgiving, thanks to the Great Russian River Turkey Roundup founded by Guerneville bartender Larry Boeger and dozens of caring volunteers. It's a record year for Boeger and his turkeyboys, who rounded up 500, or about three tons, of the birds. We're talking turkey. Lots of it. And it's not just turkey we're talking.

"We've got two-and-a-half tons of vegetables and canned goods coming in," Boeger boasts. The food will be distributed by the Diablo Valley AIDS Food Bank and Food For Thought, the Sonoma County AIDS Food Bank. "We are doing the full food basket type thing," Boeger told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "and we also have two restaurants, Pasta Boys in Larkfield and Sweets Grill in Guerneville, that are cooking up a hundred free Thanksgiving dinners."

Efforts of volunteers from across both counties, including gay bar and business participation (together with some volunteers from Face To Face, Sonoma County's AIDS Network), helped make it happen. "This is the first year we are doing pre-cooked meals as well," Boeger said, and added with some amazement, "besides the 300 turkeys to Food For Thought, and 200 turkeys to Contra Costa County's Diablo Valley AIDS Food



Bird call: Larry Boeger (extreme left) and other volunteers show off the main Great Russian River Turkey Roundup fare.

Bank, we are also donating turkeys to three senior citizen care homes, and to the Guerneville Senior Center.

"Every year it gets a little bigger, and this year the turkey roundup sort of went crazy."

How did Boeger get lassoed into rounding up 500 turkeys? "Five years ago, I donat-

ed all my tips after work one night," he explained, "and others put in money, and we all marched down to Safeway and bought 26 turkeys, and we took them over to the food bank, and from 26 turkeys we've made our way up the scale, every year growing larger.

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'Clean-cut' Castro crook reported

by Dennis Conkin

A gay man walking down Market Street towards Noe on Tuesday, November 4, was mugged and robbed by an assailant who told the victim he had a gun, then ripped a cross on a chain off the man's neck and said he would shoot him if cash was not forthcoming.

Kurt M. Harris, 33, a baker who works for a downtown bakery, said that the violent incident continues to affect him.

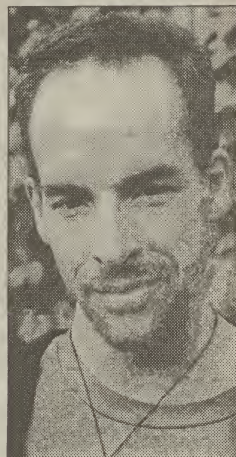
Harris, who is also a student at the California Culinary Academy, said that he took some time off school and work because of the assault, but is still traumatized.

According to Harris, he was on his way to work around 4 a.m., walking down the street with his headphones on, and noticed "a clean-cut guy" about a block away.

"He looked like he was a lost tourist," Harris said.

As Harris passed, the man said a few words, but Harris couldn't hear them. The man kept talking and then grabbed Harris's arm and demanded money.

"I said I had no money, and he said that he had a gun in his backpack and that if I didn't cooperate, I'd be shot. I took out my wallet and handed him the first card



Kurt M. Harris

I could find," Harris said.

The card was Harris's ATM card. The assailant then put his hand on Harris's back, and the pair began to walk to a nearby automated teller machine.

"He said, 'What kind of shit are you trying to pull?' and I said, 'I don't know what you're talking about, and I have no money,'" Harris told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"At that point, he said, 'I'm going to go ahead and blow your ass away right now.' He put his hand on my chest and ripped the cross from my neck. I looked him in the eye, and I said, 'Go ahead and shoot,'" Harris said.

Harris began running, and ran five blocks. Figuring that the safest place to be was at his job, he hopped a bus and called police from his place of employment.

Harris said that when he called 911, the operator asked him why it took so long to report the assault.

"It was about half an hour later. I waited until I felt I had made it, and called as soon as I could," he said.

Speaking out

Harris said that initially he didn't want to talk about the incident, because he felt a lot of self-blame.

"I fit the stereotype of being

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Positive Women, Positive Art show this Sunday

by Cynthia Laird

Once again, Positive Women, Positive Art will showcase HIV-positive women's arts and crafts items in San Francisco this Sunday, November 30; this is the group's second event this year, following a very successful one in March. The show and art sale will also feature great food, a raffle, and fun, said Pali Boucher, one of the participants and organizers of the event.

The art show and sale will help local organizations; perhaps more importantly, it gives the artists an opportunity to sell their work. In March, Boucher said that before she got involved with organizing the event, her artwork, primarily photographs of HIV-positive people with their pets, sat untouched and unappreciated in a closet. That no longer needs to be the case.

Included among the arts and crafts on display and for sale are photographs, ceramics, jewelry, paintings, furniture, and much more. Sponsoring organizations include the Women's AIDS Network (WAN), WORLD (Women Organized to Respond to Life-Threatening Diseases), and PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support).

Boucher and the other artists encourage anyone who appreciates unique arts and crafts to come see the show. ▼

Positive Women, Positive Art will take place from 2 to 9 p.m. at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street, between 23rd and Elizabeth streets.

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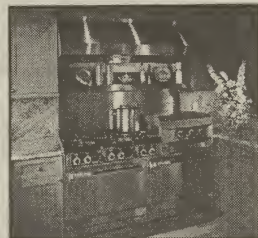
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Supes shout about Powell

by Cynthia Laird

What was planned by Supervisor Gavin Newsom to be a routine commendation for retired General Colin Powell, in honor of Powell's work involving volunteerism and youth, turned into a showdown between the lone straight white male member of the board and veteran gay rights activist Super-

visor Tom Ammiano.

On Monday, November 24, Ammiano blasted Powell, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for his position on gays in the military. As a result, the city will not be saying thanks to Powell via a resolution. Powell was in town November 19 to help raise \$1.4 million in private funds for the city's delegation from the President's Summit for America's Future.

Things got heated at the board meeting, a shouting match ensued, and at one point Supervisor Susan Leal asked to have Newsom removed from the room. In the aftermath, phone calls began pouring into Ammiano's office Tuesday morning; he received almost a dozen homophobic messages, but also a lot of calls in support of his stand.

Newsom balked at being called "insensitive" to the problems faced by gays in the military and said he opposes Powell on that issue. The resolution, he said, simply thanked him for his work with delegations from the president's summit, especially his help in San Francisco last week. "I'm insulted."



Supervisor Gavin Newsom

I've been very supportive of lesbian and gay issues, and I agree with Tom's condemnation of Powell in relation to gays in the military," Newsom told the B.A.R.

Ammiano was equally upset. "He [Newsom] is insensitive to gay needs, I didn't invite this. There has to be some responsibility here," Ammiano told the B.A.R. "I've lived here 35 years, I know about gay oppression."

Mayor Willie Brown said the move "was a major faux pas on the part of Ammiano." Powell, the mayor added, should have been thanked for his help for the city's youth. ▼

UC Regents okay DPs, despite Pete

United Press International

The University of California Board of Regents added same-sex partners of its employees and retirees to its health insurance benefits plan on a 13 to 12 vote Friday, November 21.

Governor Pete Wilson said he opposed the plan because costs could spiral if unmarried heterosexual couples successfully sue to be included in the health plan.

Wilson filled three empty seats on the Regents board just in time for the vote. All three voted against the plan.

University spokesman Rick Malaspina says the expanded enrollment for medical, dental, and vision care is intended for couples who meet the board's requirements, and will take effect within a few months.

Employees' partners must be at least 18, and couples must provide proof of a long-term relationship demonstrated by a shared residence and financial obligations.

Couples must also be unable to legally marry under California law, either because partners are of the same sex or because of a family relationship — such as elderly parents living with single employees.

The 2 to 5 percent additional enrollment is expected to cost between \$1.9 and \$5.6 million annually on top of the university's \$400 million annual health insurance budget.

The plan's supporters say the university would have lost faculty and experienced a diminished ability to recruit faculty had the measure failed. ▼

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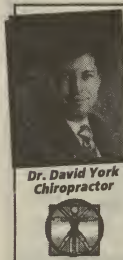
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Sha'ar Zahav to move

by Shan Schwartz

The boxes are all nearly packed at 220 Danvers Street, and Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will have its final Shabbat services at that location this Friday, November 28.

Sha'ar Zahav, a predominantly gay and lesbian congregation, is leaving its Upper Market building and taking up temporary quarters before moving to its new home at 290 Dolores Street (at 16th). Along with inducting a new rabbi in two weeks, the move marks an exciting period of growth and indicates stability for the congregation.

Tiela Chalmers, coordinator of Sha'ar Zahav's new building project, told the B.A.R. that the congregation had been looking for a new home for several years. She said the current building had been getting more crowded at Friday evening Shabbat services, and the growing children's religious school was also short on space.

Looking for a new building was no easy task, Chalmers said. Many of the available "church-like buildings" in the city are built of unreinforced masonry that would not likely withstand an earthquake. Furthermore, the congregation wanted a building that would be easily accessible for all people and stay relatively close to the Castro area.

When they found the Dolores Street building, which was formerly a funeral home, Chalmers said, "We knew pretty quickly that it was the right building for us. It's in the right location, still close to the Castro, it's very accessible, and it's close to a wider religious community, with six churches within two blocks."

At about 9,000 square feet, the new building is three times the



Fond farewell: An SR0 crowd sings adieu to the Danvers Street synagogue Nov. 21.

size of the Danvers Street building. Chalmers said the new building will have a significantly larger worship space and much greater capacity for the synagogue's diverse educational and social programs.

The building's first floor will house the congregation's office and rooms for events and programs, she said, and worship space will take up most of the second floor. The building's existing flat roof will be replaced with a pitched roof, creating a more spacious and bright worship area.

Sha'ar Zahav recently turned 20 years old, and Chalmers said the new building is a testimony to a new stage of existence for the synagogue.

"When we bought our current building, we had very few children, and we didn't have a religion school for them," she said. "And we didn't have such a diverse group of people, so we didn't need such diverse programming for them. Now, we have a larger and more diverse membership, so we really need a broader variety of programs for which, by the way, we need more space."

The new property also is indicative of the financial stability of the congregation. The congregation bought its current building for less than \$300,000 and had to do very little work on it before moving in. The new building cost about \$750,000, and about \$1

million more is going into construction and renovation before the congregation moves in next summer.

Chalmers said congregants have pledged to pay for the building for the next five years. In addition to significant donations from the congregation, Sha'ar Zahav obtained loans from Wells Fargo bank, and interest-free loans from the Hebrew Free Loan Foundation, and the Jewish Community Federation Endowment Fund.

The financial support coming from the larger Jewish organizations is a big step for Sha'ar Zahav, Chalmers said. Those foundations are trying to diversify the organizations they support, and Chalmers said the loan process has brought Sha'ar Zahav much closer to the mainstream Jewish community.

The new building isn't expected to be ready for worship until June, Chalmers said. In the meantime, Sha'ar Zahav is setting up temporary quarters with its new neighbor, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, at 3281 16th Street. Sha'ar Zahav's worship services will be there beginning Friday, December 12.

The office staff and rabbi will move into St. Matthew's as well, but because of space constraints, office hours will be limited. Sha'ar Zahav's telephone number will remain the same: (415) 861-6932. ▼

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A Starr is born

The judges didn't render their final decision until 3 a.m. That's when the beautiful and effervescent Nikki Starr was crowned the new Miss Trannyshack at the Stud Nov. 22. Eight colorful contestants competed in the swimsuit, Q&A, and talent categories before a wild, well-lubricated crowd that, as usual, pushed all boundaries for taste and decorum.

The Milk train doesn't go down Market anymore

by Dennis Conkin

The 19th annual observance of the assassination of Mayor George Moscone and San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk will be held in the Castro on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27.

This year's observance will be a break from the traditional cortege down Market Street to City Hall, where the pair were gunned down in 1978 by former Supervisor Dan White. Instead, it will take a route through the Castro, the neighborhood that elected Milk to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977.

The march will begin at Harvey Milk Plaza and include stops

at the former site of Milk's Castro Street camera shop and his residence on Henry Street. It will conclude with a presentation at the Harvey Milk Photography Center at Duboce Park.

The route was changed for several reasons, according to Jeff Sheehy, departing president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club.

"We wanted to do something different and more fun and intimate this year," Sheehy said. "We want to remember him as a radical activist who lived and ran a business in — and was elected from — a neighborhood with a queer cultural identity. It will have a little more focus on Harvey."

Sheehy told the *Bay Area Reporter* that one of the focuses of

this year's annual observance will be a "strong anti-censorship" message. ▼

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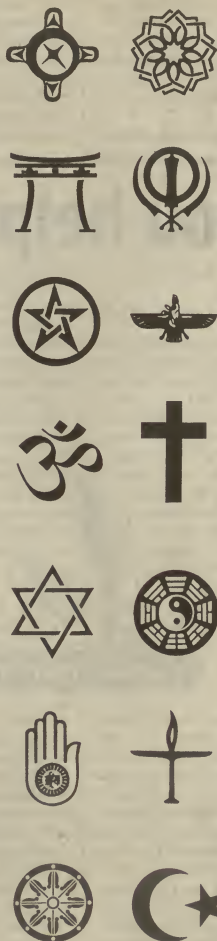
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Volume 27, Number 48
27 November 1997PUBLISHER
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Letter imperfect



Editorial

His rates as the second nerviest letter we can recall ever receiving:

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"We believe that Michael signed the letter in a different spirit than we wrote it. While we would encourage you to publish any alternative letter Michael would care to write, we ask you to delete his name from the list of signatories. We do this to encourage honest and clear discussion, not to censor nor divide.

"Thank you very much for considering our request. Please feel free to call if you have any questions.

"Sincerely yours,
"Dan Wohlfeiler, M.J. MPH"

As we said, that's *only the runner-up* for gall, since the nerviest letter would have to be the one it seeks to amend. That one, hand-delivered by the executive director of the Stop AIDS Project on Friday afternoon, read as follows:

"In the fight against AIDS, there may be many enemies. The enemy is not, however, Pat Christen.

"Anyone who works for an AIDS agency which gets supported by community funds (either indirectly through taxes or donations) has to be accountable, and must be willing to listen closely to community input and criticism.

"There's a big difference between criticism and personal attacks. There is simply no excuse for the kind of viciousness aimed at Pat which we've seen exhibited during the last several years, particularly in the pages of the *Bay Area Reporter*. We are disturbed that she gets treated much more roughly than any male leader in our community.

"The woman who co-authored the Ryan White Care Act and the HIV Prevention Community Planning Guidance deserves more respect than being attacked with cat litter, or being treated like a lightning rod for all our frustrations with the epidemic and the institutions that we have built in response.

"We must start acting like we really believe that that [sic] we can all coexist – and disagree – peacefully and respectfully, today and in the future. Otherwise, we may win the battle against AIDS, but will have lost our own humanity."

That appalling bit of whimsy was ostensibly

signed by Mark Arseneau, Director of Programs, Continuum at the Ayse Manyas Kenmore Center; Dorothy Bartolomucci, SFCCC, WPCC; Annette Brands, Executive Director, Project Inform; Melinda Capraso, Executive Director, Lyric; Tom Coates, Director, AIDS Institute, UCSF; Louis Coloia, Ph.D., Executive Director, Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group; James W. Dille, MD, Executive Director, UCSF AIDS Health Project; Ellen Goldstein, Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, UCSF; Timothy Leifeld, Executive Director, STOP AIDS Project; Steve Lew, Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Project; Michael Petrelis, AIDS Victim; and Dan Wohlfeiler, Education Director, STOP AIDS Project.

(We say "ostensibly" because, unfortunately, none of the names were actually signed, as is required for us to print letters to the editor. That forced the staff to spend pre-Thanksgiving time tracking down those people – and it wasn't easy, since some of them, like Bartolomucci, have never registered a blip on our radar screen before – to make sure they had intentionally put their name to such a stupid document. And a dangerous one, at that.)

Take a look at that letter. After the platitudinous first paragraph, which is just the written equivalent of clearing the throat, the authors spiral downward into obfuscation and community deception. While pretending to promote accountability in the second paragraph, they spend the next three trying to shield the executive director of the city's largest (and least accountable) AIDS organization from the community's natural and proper demand for answers.

We would never compare Pat Christen to O.J. Simpson.

We do, however, see obvious similarities in their defenders.

Where F. Lee Bailey used Mark Fuhrman to deflect attention away from his client, Wohlfeiler et al. use the cat litter incident to imply that all criticism aimed at Christen is, well, shitty. And instead of the race card, they play the gender card: "she gets treated much more roughly than any male leader." (It isn't true: just ask Eric Rofes, formerly of Shanti Project, or Jim Geary, at Shanti before him. As both men are aware, the focus of the community upon executive directors can be scalding, not because of their gender

but because of their performance.)

Most galling is the parental-sounding scolding: "simply no excuse for the kind of viciousness ... particularly in the pages of the *Bay Area Reporter*." Leifeld admitted as he dropped the letter off that he couldn't name a single example of that "viciousness."

In fact, he never even read the *B.A.R.* editorial in September that denounced Christen for abusing her power by cutting off services to a PWA (Petrelis, ironically), a big part of what made "accountability" a buzzword in the community right now. Oddly enough, that editorial *began by praising Stop AIDS* for its condom program, and the group's executive director *didn't even read it*. We might believe that he's just too busy doing important things over there to read the *Bay Area*'s only gay weekly, but that can't be the case: things are so slow at Stop AIDS right now that Leifeld used staff time and office resources to hawk the letter around town by phone and fax and God knows what else. (That may be understandable, considering the number of times Christen's organization has bailed that group out financially, but it seems to us that Stop AIDS should have better things to do with the community's money.) From what we hear, about as many people refused to sign the letter as buckled under to the pressure; they deserve thanks for recognizing that if Christen and the AIDS Foundation are feeling heat right now, *that's a good thing*. They should.

But the AIDS Inc. fixtures who *did* sign the letter *don't* like the idea of scrutiny, and attempt to put up a smokescreen with their (phony) pleas for harmony and contemptuous dismissals of real concerns – the kinds of concerns voiced repeatedly in the accountability forum that over 100 community members attended last month. In their worldview, it all apparently boils down to that line Sharon Tate delivered in *Valley of the Dolls*: "Oh, Neeley, you know how bitchy fags can be."

It's insulting and it's infuriating.

Like the follow-up letter, which reeks of *noblesse privilege*, it shows exactly how delusional these people are. Or at least, that's how we see it.

Readers, we ask with sincere interest: do you have an opinion on the subject?

We await your letters. We just ask you to sign them. ▼

Will you help shape the future?

by Joe Wright

Readers of the *B.A.R.* are no doubt highly conscious of a fact that much of the mainstream media has sometimes been forgetting this year: *AIDS isn't over until it's over*. A community forum next Thursday, December 4 will provide a chance for community members to discuss one of several promising paths to actually – eventually – ending the epidemic: HIV vaccines. Even while researchers work on new treatments, a vaccine offers the promise of also stopping the further spread of the epidemic, and potentially, eventually eliminating the longterm threat of the virus altogether.

Even as treatments improve, the new drugs aren't working for everyone, and their longterm effectiveness remains to be seen. Further, the expense of all kinds of treatments (even basic treatments for opportunistic infections) puts them out of reach for most of the world's people with AIDS – making questions of their effectiveness beside the point. Meanwhile, the epidemic continues to spread, even with the many successes of community HIV prevention efforts here and elsewhere.

For all of these reasons, our community and HIV-affected communities around the world desperately need an effective vaccine that can stop HIV. Vaccines have proven tremendously effective in controlling other

viruses. For instance, the only smallpox viruses remaining in the world sit in a laboratory refrigerator, the frozen artifacts of a conquered disease that once killed millions. An HIV vaccine could lead us to the day we could say the same about HIV. A vaccine is our greatest hope of eventually eliminating the threat that HIV continues to pose to the world.

A huge amount of work remains ahead. Better vaccines need to be developed. Although President Clinton's pledge to find an AIDS vaccine by the year 2007 has translated to some increases in funding support for basic and applied research that will support vaccine development, this support needs to be continued and increased over the next several years. Private industry needs to make a greater commitment to developing vaccines. We need to conduct large-scale trials of current experimental HIV vaccines to figure out whether they are effective at all in stopping infection, and thus to find out whether we are on the right track. These trials will require hundreds, and eventually thousands, of volunteers from our community, joined by thousands of volunteers from other HIV-affected communities around the United States and the world.

HIV vaccine research thus requires a great deal of community action and thought. As the prospect of large-scale vaccine trials looms – the first might be as early as some time next year – we all need to get informed about vaccine research and its

many social, political, ethical, scientific, legal, and medical issues. The San Francisco-based activist group Vaccine Advocates provides one of the most important sources of easily accessible vaccine information: their web site, at www.vaccineadvocates.org, is an excellent resource for those who want to educate themselves about HIV vaccines.

Now Vaccine Advocates is taking the next step in educating the community about vaccines and starting community discussions. The group's community forum Thursday, co-sponsored by the Research Section of the AIDS Office, will have a particular focus on how ordinary community members and activists can get involved in pushing for a vaccine and ensuring that vaccine research is conducted in a way that benefits our community.

Entitled "Before 2007: Hope and Hype in the Search for an AIDS Vaccine," the forum will take place on Thursday, December 4 at 7 p.m. in the (wheelchair accessible) fourth floor auditorium of Mission High School, located at 18th and Dolores.

At this point, the topic of HIV vaccines may seem somewhat remote to many, since there is not yet a useful vaccine on the immediate horizon. But today, all of us who join the effort to find a vaccine know that in years to come, we'll be able to tell the young people who ask us about what it was like to be queer in the 20th century: "The AIDS vaccine – I was a part of that." ▼

Joe Wright is a community educator at the AIDS Office, SF DPH.

LETTERS

A fan kick to a critic

I took great exception to the opening line in John Karr's review of Chita Rivera's show, in which he announces the little-known fact that she's "not very bright" and simply "lucked into" the roles that earned her her stature as one of the greats in musical theatre, while the shows that failed were somehow her mistake. Theatre is a collaborative effort with many factors that make a show a success or failure. What performer can you think of who's never had a dud show, song, movie, etc.? You take the opportunities you get. I will agree with him that *Chita* and *All That Jazz* has more than one ill-conceived moment, and that the material does fail her in spots. However, Rivera shines throughout, and ultimately the material is secondary – the audience is there to see her. Yes, it would be nice if every show was a hit, but for my nickel, two hours with a mere "fabulous performer with boundless energy" is enough. I'll take that any day over a sterile blockbuster show that's so slick it doesn't require a star performance. How about focusing on what was right about the evening, like what was causing the crowd to beat its hands together until she asked, "Did my mother send you?" But whether you see this show as a glass half full or half-empty, to open a review by calling the performer stupid is not only journalism I can't respect, but smacks of an old-school bitter queen who wants to knock someone who has a better high kick. Or perhaps Mr. Karr is just not very bright.

Jeff Valentine
San Francisco

[Editor's note: Karr's high kick is as rotten as his comment. We apologize unreservedly.]

Ironic eviction

It is with amazement and mounting concern that I learn of the incidents surrounding the attempted eviction of Mr. Bill Hershon from his home of nine years (B.A.R., November 6, 1997).

The irony that one of San Francisco's foremost advocates of housing for people with AIDS is himself in danger of losing housing due to an owner move-in eviction is bad enough, to add the alleged incidents of harassment is truly alarming.

People with AIDS have a right to live with dignity and without health-threatening stress, particularly from those who provide that housing.

Bob Nelson
Executive Director
Dolores Street Community Services

Close the loophole

I am writing to express my concern for Mr. Hershon regarding the "owner/move-in eviction" you featured. How can this happen in this compassionate city? Who are these people who evict the elderly and PWAs, and are they local? Somehow I doubt it. Legislation must be started to close this loophole, and I support the initiative suggested by Tom Ammiano.

W.B. Trimble
San Francisco

Picking on the wrong tenant

I just wanted to thank you for the coverage you gave to the landlord/tenant injustice that Bill Hershon is defending against. I hope you will keep the public apprised of this ongoing problem that individual citizens must face when confronted with greedy corporate interests that will go to any lengths to achieve their goals.

Gladly, you chose to focus on one individual, who will not roll over easily. I was a school classmate of Bill Hershon. Although this is not legal advice, I would suggest that the landlord look elsewhere to pick a fight, or such landlord may be taking on the community.

John Posen
J.D. New College School 1996

Alioto for supe?

Now that Susan Leal is moving on to relative obscurity and less job security (if glitches occur, Willie might want her head – even if she is in his pocket), her spot should not automatically go to a gay or lesbian.

The most interesting (to me) person for the job might be Michela Alioto. She isn't gonna win any races for bigger jobs, starting at the bottom of the political ladder (school boards, etc.) is her only other viable alternative. She ought to move to the city and give Willie an elbow to the ribs every now 'n' then until he makes his choice.

I don't know how long one must live in a California county to be eligible for a political position, but anyway, Michela Alioto is one person who'd eventually get my vote if she'd been appointed and did a good job thereafter.

Thornton Kimes
San Francisco

Defined by our sexuality?

I want to publicly thank the censorship (or anti-censorship) activists for providing me with a great opportunity to reflect on our culture this week. As my partner and I were standing at the corner of Castro and 18th Street waiting for the light to change, I had a chance to read some activist notices taped to the sidewalk. And, while I have no idea what censorship has to do with the following statement, it was this statement that started my philosophical musings: "Our culture is defined by our sexuality."

This view of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community was one I had not considered previously, in spite of having read *Culture of Desire*, which espouses something quite different. If one subscribes to this philosophical apologetics for the GLBT community, it explains many things. It explains, for example, why so many of our community move from one short-term relationship to another; why advertisements for massage therapists show the therapist in the nude, as though he were the one who was going to be receiving the massage; why nearly every "gay-themed" book (including my own) shows a nearly naked body on the cover; why members of our community over the age of 50 walk unseen down the streets of our neighborhood; why all print media advertisements – from AIDS fundraising events to auto repair shops – are covered with butts, tits and penises, bending, flexing, or saluting at would-be patrons.

Well, I could go on with the examples, but you know what I'm talking about. I'm talking about our culture being "defined by our sexuality." Not by our good works; not by our emotional bonds; not by our spiritual wrestlings; not by our political interests; not by our arts and letters; not even by our struggle for equality. And certainly not by the uniqueness of our inner struggle with the outer world. We are not defined by any of the qualities that would affect us on spiritual, emotional, intellectual, social and physical (including sexual) levels, and thereby distinguish us as a particular subcollective, while at the same time demonstrate our undeniable connection to the rest of humanity. No. We are defined by our sexuality alone.

Very provocative thinking. But I am left with these nagging questions: This is supposed to be healthy? This fosters growth of the whole person? Our sexuality is what holds us together as a community? This alone is what defines who we are? Is it possible that any one thing alone defines a culture? But then I remind myself that if the answer to each of these questions is "yes," as some obviously believe, then all the puzzling characteristics of my community listed above as examples make perfect sense.

So thanks, activists, for clearing that up for me. I still don't know what it has to do with censorship, and I am still left with one very troubling realization: I don't fit in here either.

Krandall Kraus
San Francisco

Sex in shop windows

Having sex in shop windows without regard to passers-by, or representing same in the form of photos, handbills, dolls, etc., is widely considered to be questionable – dare I say unacceptable – behavior, even among adults. To claim that random exposure to such images is a desirable means of educating young children is, well, ludicrous. And attempting to confuse these facts by throwing around the word "censorship" is a red herring at best, serving only to undercut any serious debate regarding publicly displayed sexually explicit images.

I am not personally offended by the handbills or dolls in question. Gee, if everyone were just like me... but everyone isn't. We gay people do not live in a void, and ours are not the only legitimate voices in the Castro. To continue such window displays while simply ignoring widespread dissenting opinion, from both within and outside of the gay community, is to be supremely narrow-minded and blatantly unfair – the very things we so often correctly accuse our detractors of being.

Some have said it is not incumbent upon the gay community to be sensitive to its straight neighbors – let them move elsewhere if they're not happy. Some have said there is no need for boundaries, that there is nothing wrong with displaying any image to any individual at any time in any place. Some have said the handbill/doll issue is not just another example of crass commercialism at its worst, but rather is an issue of "freedom of expression." All of these arguments have one thing in common – none of them make any distinction between the worlds of adult and child. The fact is that many children do live in the Castro, and a child's world is different. In the heat of the current debate, it seems that some people have forgotten that a special understanding and consideration of this difference is the obligation of any responsible adult.

Mark Cooper
San Francisco

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Pre-empting authentic transsexual voices

I have a problem with a gay man such as GLAAD's Don Romesburg presuming to inform the rest of us as to what is or isn't "trans-stupid" (Media Watch, B.A.R., 11/6/97).

Romesburg and GLAAD are pre-empting the authentic voices of transpeople through the imposition of his gay male perspective and interpretation upon media portrayals of transsexuals, transvestites, and transgenders.

Earlier this year, Romesburg criticized an advertisement aired during the Super Bowl which featured a transsexual character at a high school reunion. The eight transsexuals I viewed the ad with at the time it aired had no problems with it – nor did any of the transsexuals I subsequently spoke to. We were offended, however, by the fact the ad was subsequently pulled as a result of public pressure – pressure which Romesburg ostensibly helped to create by urging his primarily gay and lesbian readers to protest what he felt was the ad's "transphobic" slant.

Now Romesburg is exhorting his readers to protest what he sees as the "cheap transphobic humor" of NBC's *Union Square* while, again, none of the transsexuals I've discussed the show with have a problem with it.

Romesburg's proclivity to see "transphobia" is interesting given his utter silence in response to truly transphobic hate-mongering which has appeared in the gay and lesbian press in the past year or so:

• Last year, a column in New Orleans' queer paper, *Impact*, referred to transsexuals as "men dressed and acting like borderline schizophrenic women. ... They get their dicks chopped off and their chests filled with poisonous resins; they still aren't women, but reputedly they can pick up a few illiterate cracker farmboys from the outlying white trash areas."

• The October 1996 issue of *Dykespeak Icon* published the following letter to the editor: "To call someone a woman who has mutilated their male genitalia is unthinkable. Such people have arrogantly trashed both the feminine and masculine principles in life. ... I believe we are all being quite cowardly by not stopping this nonsense at once. Once again we women are allowing men to define for us what it is to be a woman, e.g., a castrated male. Ridiculous! And once again men are wanting to grab all the attention for themselves, even if it means cutting their dick off."

The explanation for Romesburg's selective criticism may simply be that he's a couch potato who watches television to the exclusion of reading – but it strikes me as far more likely that he is hypocritically denouncing the dust specks in the straight media's eye while ignoring the boulder in his own.

Margaret Deirdre O'Hartigan
Portland, OR

Victims of the war on drugs

Tens of thousands of mostly young men – mostly confined for marijuana – are being sexually tortured each day in U.S. correctional institutions.

Stephen Donaldson, late director of Stop Prisoner Rape, Inc. (<http://www.spr.org>), estimated in 1985 that 26,000 adult male prisoners were raped daily in American jails and prisons. In 1995, a year before he died of AIDS from rape in prison, Donaldson estimated the prison boom due to the War on Drugs had increased the number of males being sexually tortured in the American gulag to 83,000 daily.

As if this isn't bad enough, many, if not most of these prisoner rape victims are confined for marijuana – a drug far less potent than caffeine and aspirin, not to mention tobacco and alcohol. I am a long-time survivor-member of SPR, Inc., having directed it from 1984-1994.

If Donaldson and I are correct, rape behind bars must be marijuana's biggest hazard to health – thus the number one reason use of this plant must be decriminalized soon.

And what more than the profit motive is another great hazard to health of all illicit narcotics? It doesn't take a genius to understand the grossly-inflated price of drugs – caused by prohibition – is the major reason for drug-related crime. It was recently reported that the world drug trade has reached \$400 billion annually, is bigger than the world automobile trade, and may represent eight percent of the world economy.

When we add to this the many billions of dollars spent feebly trying to stop trafficking, it is indeed crazy-making.

Because of this emergency, I urge an international summit meeting on the international drug trade soon. Preferably it would be held in San Francisco to be close to the Hoover Institution, two of whose members – George Schultz (former US secretary of state) and Dr. Joseph McNamara (former chief of police of nearby San Jose) – favor de-escalating the War on Drugs.

Tom Cahill
Fort Bragg, CA

Hi, my name is Dennis, and I'll be your dealer tonight...

I am writing in response to Doug Sutterfield's letter in your 11/20/97 issue about the price of marijuana at the San Francisco Cannabis Cultivators Club. When I am able to purchase our high-grade marijuana at lower prices I immediately pass this on to the members of the club. For the last two weeks, our high-grade (5A) marijuana has been selling at \$60 for an eighth of an ounce, not \$65 as Doug mentioned. This week I was able to offer members a 5A seeded marijuana for \$25 for an eighth of an ounce, as well.

I share Doug's concern about the high price of marijuana and I am constantly trying to attack the reasons for its inflated price. One of the main reasons it is so expensive is because of CAMP – the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting – a program that is championed by our state's Attorney General Dan Lungren. Here are the words of Dan Lungren from a recent speech he made to the Association of California Highway Patrol:

"This year, our Campaign Against Marijuana Planting has seized more than 132,000 plants, and arrested 54 individuals, making it the fourth most productive season in its 15-year history. We have some legislators around the state who think we should ban it all together just because Proposition 215 was passed. Well, we are not going to do that."

"Because of your efforts, more than 120 million joints won't be rolled."

I understand and share Doug's frustration. When we stop CAMP and get a new attorney general for our state, I hope we will see a dramatic drop in the price of marijuana statewide. Since those two things will not happen immediately, you'll be happy to know that we are planning to brave the risks of CAMP ourselves and will begin planting our own marijuana in Northern California during the next growing season. If our plan works, we should be able to bring down the prices more dramatically at our club.

Dennis Peron
San Francisco

Providing condoms: a community service

I became disappointed while reading your article, "Bar owners agree to condom giveaway," when I read the quote from Kevin Owens of the Lone Star: "It's not his responsibility to pay for them; it's everyone's personal responsibility to take care of themselves." When a person's judgment is compromised under the influence of alcohol, I believe the establishment that sold the individual that alcohol also has a responsibility. I call it added value service. Do we only care about the "almighty dollar," or do we care about our community and those that patronize our business?

Steve Watson, my partner in business and life, the former Vice-President/Treasurer of TCH, Inc., and the former General Manager of the Lone Star Saloon, initiated dialogue with the Stop AIDS Project back in the late fall of 1993. He opened the Lone Star community room, at no charge, for SAP discussion forums. The intention was to open our doors for the planning and implementation of education and community services. TCH, Inc. had been a pioneering gay-owned business in the hospitality industry, in developing an effective partnership between our community and non-profit groups like SAP and the group known then as Black and White Men Together.

When TCH, Inc. purchased the Lone Star Saloon, one of our foremost goals was to give back to the community. In the hospitality industry, we had a very unique position to make contributions. Our commitment to our community and our loss of many friends mandated that TCH, Inc. take on the sometimes difficult and costly task of educating people about the use and responsibility of condoms and the responsibility of the hospitality industry to its patrons. The entire community, we feel, benefits from such corporate decisions.

As the healthcare system was undergoing cataclysmic change, accurate, up-to-date information became an ever more critical need. We purchased condoms with the Lone Star logo. We designated an area for condoms to be made available to patrons and passersby off the street. We did not require anyone to purchase anything to have access to a condom or educational materials. Mr. Watson and I believe that in any situation in life, especially a health crisis, one of the major keys in fighting the crisis is education and knowledge. We feel that bars, catering to people of any sexual orientation, have a civic duty and responsibility to educate and provide tools for their patrons.

I would like to thank Philip Turner and Daddy's for their continued effort in educating and providing condoms for their patrons! Yes, it does cost money to do things like give condoms away. It is a small price to pay when one thinks of the amount of liquor and spirits given complementarily annually. We must show compassion and understand that just because some people would rather spend their money on drugs or alcohol instead of condoms, their choices do not diminish our obligation to the community at large.

Armell A. Crocker
San Francisco

LETTERS

Hell no, we won't move!

Moving the Fallon Building, as suggested both by Scott Shafer and in a recent editorial in your paper, is not a genuine solution to the present situation for several good reasons.

To begin with, the building's main historic significance stems from its location. This is where the fire stopped in 1906. Until that time, similar structures lined Market Street, but this is the last one left of its kind. To move it would be to destroy its historical value.

The California Environmental Quality Act, which regulates the treatment of historic resources such as this building, requires the same permit process for either demolition or relocation, recognizing both as "substantial" adverse changes. In other words, moving the building instead of just knocking it down would still require the owners to go through the same expensive review, an expense that would not be necessary if the building were integrated into the new community center as previously planned.

In addition, it's uncertain whether such a large building, especially one with its unusual shape, could actually be moved. This means that it is unlikely any purchaser would be able to commit to moving it, even at a purchase price of one dollar. The liabilities would be prohibitive.

What are the Directors of the Community Center thinking of when they suggest moving it? That's a non-answer, and they know it. But the key to their thinking is contained in the minutes of their meeting of 9/17/97. In discussing what to do, Scott Shafer suggests "creating a DIVERSIONARY TACTIC, such as offering to sell the Victorian for a dollar to someone who will move it." (Emphasis added.)

And this is exactly what they've done. They are spending public money to deceive the community so that ultimately they can destroy a public resource. And they're presuming their action as a reasonable plan.

The city has already made a more reasonable suggestion. They are willing to allow subdivision of the lot. This would mean that the Fallon building could be sold to outside owners who would preserve it, the new community center could be built on the large remaining lot, and the project would get a financial windfall. Bidders for this more sensible alternative are already lining up.

We believe that the Fallon Building should be incorporated into the new community center, which we all strongly support. However, if Scott Shafer and the Executive Board are truly unwilling to do this, then they should accept the city's offer and sell the building. This would give the new center a financial windfall, while still respecting San Francisco history.

Tom Mayer
San Francisco

Who likes individualism?

After sitting through the Community Center Board's presentation to the City Landmarks Commission on Wednesday, I left with a feeling of astonishment at the arrogance of this group which presumes to speak for the gay community. Two issues have become clear: first, the board's designs are flawed; and second, their claim to community leadership is no longer deserved.

First, regarding their center's design flaws, as a student of architecture, I am aware of two approaches to site planning: the "individualist" approach, which makes a building stand out and compete with adjacent structures, and the "contextual" approach, which makes a building blend with its neighbors.

The Board's "individualist" design for a glass and steel office building directly competes with the adjacent neighborhood. The building would resemble a glittery high-rise nightclub, with architectural details which relate more to the adjacent Central Freeway than to a Victorian row house.

The alternative of a "contextual" approach could retain the existing Fallon Building and incorporate small-scale design details like bay windows, moldings, porches, and lap siding into the new center. But even though this Board selected a site with a historic Victorian, they do not have a restoration architect on their team, they have ignored recommendations of the San Francisco Heritage Foundation, and they have made it clear that they want the structure to dominate, not harmonize with the neighborhood.

Second, the board is abandoning their mission of leadership. Rather than trying to achieve a consensus decision, they are choosing to stifle dissent and ignore input. If this building is executed as proposed without changes, they will have succeeded in permanently alienating a sizable group of us from ever feeling a part of this center. If the board continues to exclude, rather than include, us in their decision-making, I predict that their whole program will collapse under the weight of community revulsion, as more and more of us recognize them for who they really are: a narrow-minded group of empire-builders with a "Gay Redevelopment" agenda.

David Cannon
San Francisco

Eyesore R Us

I would like to thank the self-proclaimed "preservationists" who have protested at the site of the planned Community Center, picketed the project's major fundraising event, and tried to discourage contributions to the Center.

Nothing could have made me more dedicated to work for the construction of the Center proposed by the project's board and architect – without the dilapidated, unsafe and unfunctional building currently crumbling on the site.

Of course, every time someone tries to accomplish something important in San Francisco, a small band of reactionary, small-minded, short-sighted people come together to try and stop it.

But what makes this recent incarnation particularly despicable is how an elitist group of almost entirely white, propertied men is trying to stop the construction of a facility that is particularly needed by youth, elderly, people of color, women, newcomers, transgenders, working parents, and other members of our community who can't afford the comforts of the preservationists' restored Victorians.

These men want people to think that they support a center, but that is a lie. None of them have ever done a thing to support the project, even while the board worked to save the Victorian, just as none of them ever did a thing to save this supposed jewel of a building during the decades it was allowed to rot.

If they truly wanted a center, they would be actively working to raise the \$2 million or more needed to rehabilitate the eyesore and mitigate its negative impact on the rest of the Center. Instead, they are trying to cut off public and corporate donations to the project. Just what we need: gay men giving straight people an excuse not to put money into our community, and the straight media an opportunity to make our community look silly.

If they succeed, there will be no center – and their newly-beloved old building won't survive, either. No one's suddenly going to put up \$2 million for this degraded property.

Make no mistake about it. The only thing the "preservationists" will preserve is San Francisco's distinction as the only major American city without a lesbian and gay community center.

We can't let these fools determine our community's future. Those of us with vision, social consciousness, and common sense must make our voices heard in City Hall.

Dick Pabich
Berkeley, CA

Politics in the sandbox

My L/G/B/T sisters and brothers, once again we have met the enemy and it is us. Very quickly the disagreement over the fate of the Victorian at 1800 Market has become centered not on the building's architectural value, not on its historical value, but on the building's political value. Yes, once again, we resort to the infighting and bickering that occurs in all families – but rather than choose to sit down and openly discuss our differences we, time and time again, choose to air our differences by acting like children in a sandbox who don't like how someone else thinks we should shape our sand. So, like a child, we throw a tantrum and pick up our pail and shovel, go home, and play alone. Then we get lonely so we start openly accusing others trying to win friends, and perhaps votes.

What we do have as a community are a lot of people with political aspirations. What we don't have is a Community Center. Perhaps we don't really want one. Personally, I don't think that this is the case. Many of us have come to San Francisco because of what we find here that we can't find elsewhere – the opportunity to live our lives openly and with pride – something that we couldn't easily do in, let's say, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Well guess what, Fort Wayne has a Community Center, and San Francisco does not. Somehow our sisters and brothers in Fort Wayne all played together in the sandbox and built community. We, on the other hand, live in a place that is touted as "Mecca," but even in "Mecca" we can't agree. We can't even agree to disagree. We seem much more content with being manipulated by those with political hopes and dreams, much less our own media, than with joining together as a community.

I moved here less than two years ago. I'm not rich. But when I found out that we had the opportunity to build a community center, I started paying my money. Why? Because I think we can have what Fort Wayne, Indiana, has, a "community" and a center. Now I'm getting off my soapbox and I'm picking up my pail and shovel and I'm going down to the sandbox to join my sisters and brothers in building community. Everyone is welcome, there is just one little rule – if you don't like how someone else wants to move some sand, you can't throw sand in their face and then stomp home with your and everyone else's pail and shovel.

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Law'd, law'd

by Beth Elliott

I've been snickering at human nature again (*quelle surprise!*). How can I not, with some of the shenanigans making the newspapers lately? It's a matter of laughing to keep from crying. (Well, I did some of that, too.)

One example: reading about the fast one the co-founder of computer mouse maker Logitech pulled on his managers: bringing in "Dilbert" creator Scott Adams in disguise—bad disguise—as a management consultant hired to help executives rewrite their New Ventures Group's mission statement. Though Adams pulled their legs like crazy, including comparing mission statements to broccoli soup, the execs did little more than fidget and shoot each other quizzical glances out of respect for the boss. No hard feelings, apparently... but how could anyone not admire such artistry, elaborate practical joke division?

Another: reports of internal wrangling—to the point of an expensive and embarrassing lawsuit—in the German Green Party, over mandatory gender equity in selecting regional officers. Three months ago, the party was trying to fill the position of national spokesperson. The incumbent had resigned because she could not get along with her male boss; the woman the party chose to replace her turned down the job. The presidium then picked Harald Handel out of 200 applicants, and for good reason: he is an "Ossi," that is, a German born and raised in the former East Germany, and

therefore a member of a minority group among whom the Greens are considered irrelevant. The staff council agreed at first, then changed their minds and demanded that Handel be removed because the party already had too many male regional chairs.

The presidium is standing by its choice, which lawyers say is justifiable, because to can Handel now would cost them what little support they have among Ossis. Handel, who admits "I am just a man," claims the staff council knows it cannot win, but is playing internal politics. Whether that is true, or the staff council truly believes it must fight this battle for gender equity, the *London Independent* reports the wrangling will cost the party a small fortune.

And just when I was going to suggest the Greens might be a levelheaded choice to arbitrate the matter of the Victorian on the community center site...

What really intrigued me, though, was the really, really strange bedfellowship that appears to have come to pass between AIDS activists and advocates of public funding for fertility treatments. It has to do with the interpretation of the Americans with Disabilities Act's definition of "impaired in a major life function" as applied to reproductive capacity; my curiosity was piqued as I formatted a couple of Circuit Court cases I pulled off the Web

for a hypertext project.

Now, I'd like to point out that fighting discrimination against people with HIV is a good thing. Further, in one of these cases, the defendant appeared to me to be clearly in the wrong; and though I'm not convinced of that in the other, there was something that raised my hackles anyway. I pondered the way these battles

were waged, because I prefer some ethical consistency to using any tactic to win. This latter is what gives lawyers bad names, and it too often has unintended consequences. Here, it's just that one case struck me as hav-

ing more to it than met the eye (or Web browser), and here's why:

Abbott vs. Bragdon (First Circuit 1997) involved an asymptomatic HIV-positive woman in Maine who made a dental appointment, indicated her viral status on her patient registration form, and then, when a cavity was found, was told by the dentist she'd have to pay more to have the cavity filled, since he'd have to do it in a hospital rather than his office because of his infectious disease policy. She filed suit instead.

The district court found, and the First Circuit affirmed, that because plaintiff risked passing the virus through sex or pregnancy, she was substantially limited in a major life activity; therefore, she was disabled for purposes of the ADA and had been discriminated against. Crucial was her testimony that she had stopped her consideration of starting a family because even if a child did not get the virus, he or she wouldn't have a mother for very long.

One defense argument the courts shot down was that it should consider whether this particular plaintiff was likely to exercise her reproductive option. I wondered about that as well, because it occurred to me that plaintiff Sydney Abbott, if she were indeed in cahoots with AIDS activists, might be the Sydney Abbott who co-authored that groundbreaking post-Stonewall book, *Sappho Was a Right-On Woman*. Not that it mattered—discrimination is discrimination—but that would mean this plaintiff was not only possibly still lesbian but in her late forties and possibly near the end of her reproductive life anyway.

I couldn't help but wonder if there was more to this case than there appeared, that there might be something to the dentist's complaint of being set up—even though he was clearly in the wrong (hey, my dentist and his hygienist get heavily into safety gear even for teeth cleaning).

Clearly, some more Web searching was in order. That's when I found this case being touted by an infertility support and advocacy organization called Resolve as ammunition to define infertility as an ADA-covered disability. "Ultimately, the ruling might provide the necessary legal foundation for using the ADA to require employers to provide health coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of infertility."

Wow... there are women desperate for family planning services, and I'm going to have to pay for someone's in vitro fertilization? Too weird. And reproduction-impaired me didn't even get this stupid parking placard. ▼

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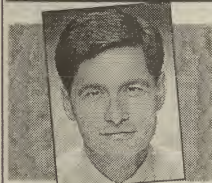
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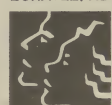
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Avoid the shopping maul

by Heather Shirkey

This Friday not only signifies the end of Thanksgiving, but heralds the biggest shopping season of the year. If you haven't started already, you will probably be feeling the pressure to rush into the stores and begin frantically pushing through the crowds, fighting for sale items, and testing your patience by standing in endless lines. For those of you fearing the crowds and the mad dashes, there most certainly is an easier way to shop: via the World Wide Web!

Geek Grrrl successfully avoided all the retail mayhem last year by grabbing a mug of hot cocoa, turning on some Bing Crosby seasonal tunes, and sitting down at the ever-friendly computer. There is nothing more cozy than completing your holiday shopping from the comfort of your home, and this year there are plenty of gay and lesbian gift sites to help you out! Oh, and if you are concerned about secure shopping, think about who is receiving your credit card number next time you place a catalog order over the phone or hand it over to a clerk in a shop. There have been far more incidents of fraud from those scenarios.

Point your browser to "A Gay Place in Cyberspace-Marketplace" (<http://www.maui.net/~randm/gp.html>). Based in Maui, this site has a solid collection of gay video sites (including a questionable *Savage Buns* video). While there, link into the Trilogy Books section, the web's largest gay and lesbian book collection. There is no better gift than a readable one! Although this site has some growing to do in the design department, its resources provide a pleasurable browse.

Another stellar shopping experience for reading materials is one even a mother could love. "A Brother's Touch" (<http://www.brotherstouch.com>) provides a selection of books, magazines, flags, music, and more. Be sure to stop by their "Specials" area, where you can currently get 10% off all spirituality books. Online ordering through the interactive

catalog makes your holiday shopping so very easy!

However, as always, Geek Grrrl has some supreme favorite sites for you to visit. When it comes to holiday shopping, Geek Grrrl became overjoyed with three hot shopping spots. The first one is a warm and friendly place created by "da boys" exclusively for Internet shoppers. (That's you!) "Daboize Toys" (<http://www.gaywired.com/unity/daboize>) hosts a unique and original collection of gay and lesbian-themed gift items, none of which can be found in walk-in retail.

Some of the items you will find at Daboize are: artistically-designed flower pots, wall hangings called "Window Books," and hilarious stationary products featuring illustrated characters Harold the Bird and CindyGirl. Admire Harold's amazing pecker, and share a moment with CindyGirl as she discovers the spin cycle on her washing machine.

The second site that captured Geek Grrrl's holiday spirit is the site hosted by "Gay-Mart" (<http://www.gaymart.com>). This site touts itself as "The World's Largest Gay and Lesbian Internet Catalog." It is an old-timer in this realm, now celebrating its second anniversary online. Gay Mart not only acknowledges the standard Christmas, but celebrational items appropriate for Hanukkah, winter solstice, and the New Year. Roam the virtual aisles of lifestyle gifts, gifts for the "Queer Domicile," and gifts by hobbies and interests. However, the most eloquent and fabulous shopping site for the holidays is "Faboo" (<http://www.faboo.com>). Click on "stuff." The "Faboo Stuff" collection is thorough and fun! Take your time checking out male and female playtoys, underwear, lube tools, rainbow gear, jewelry, love potions, and a collection of off-the-wall gifts. Geek Grrrl prefers the Computer Voodoo Doll and the boxing nun. The Virgin Mary nightlight is also charming.

Faboo guarantees the lowest prices on the web for the items it offers. Shopping ease and guaranteed security are elements that

carry this site to the next level of web experiences. The catalog is organized in a hassle-free manner, with a sense of humor. And the aisles are never crowded!

One last suggestion: if you are having a terrible time finding a gift for the "beefcake" in your life, hop on over to "Omaha Steaks" and send some raw, frozen meat (<http://www.omahasteaks.com>). You can't go wrong with meat. ▼

Link to sites mentioned in today's article are at <http://www.sirius.com/~hezaa/bar>.



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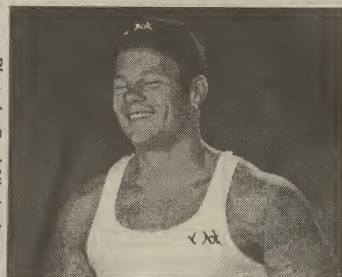
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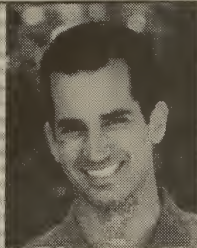
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What is natural?

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

"It's Not Natural" is the title of an anti-gay song in a recent album from the gospel-singing sisters Angie and Debbie Winans. The Winans' idea is hardly original: two thousand years ago, Saint Paul condemned gay sex as "against nature," and his viewpoint has been taken as justification for centuries of persecution of gay people. On the other hand, most of us who are gay or lesbian feel we are acting naturally when we give expression to same-sex desire. So it's worth asking what "natural" and "unnatural" mean in the context of sexuality, and whether science has anything to contribute to resolving the question.

A common use of the word natural is to mean "untouched by human agency." Very often, this use carries the implicit message that what is natural is also best: honey is better than Sweet N' Low, Yosemite is better than Hollywood. This meaning of "natural" is behind the long tradition of denouncing homosexuality on the grounds that it doesn't occur among non-human animals.

Science easily disposes of this kind of argument: sex between two male or between two female animals is widespread. I have previously written columns about same-sex sexual behavior in seagulls, bonobo chimpanzees, and

sheep, and I could write about hundreds of other species where similar behavior has been documented. Furthermore, there are some human attributes, such as the use of syntax-based language or the possession of a conscious moral sense, that don't seem to be undesirable just because they are unique to our species. And there are some behavioral traits shared

by animals and humans, such as violent aggression, that seem undesirable in spite of their naturalness. "Natural" and "unnatural," used in this sense, are simply not congruent with "good" and "bad."

Another form of the "unnatural" argument is to say that each species of animal has its own natural be-

haviors, and that gay sex is not among the natural behaviors of human beings. This line of thinking goes back to the Greek philosopher Aristotle, who attributed different natural behaviors to different elements (e.g. the natural behavior of fire is to move upward, while that of earth is to move downward). Science has largely abandoned this style of thought. Thus, when people use this kind of argument today, they are usually speaking in a strictly moral or theological framework, where science can make no contribution. Certainly that's true in the case of the Winans sisters, whose song includes the words "It's not natural/No, that's not the way God planned."

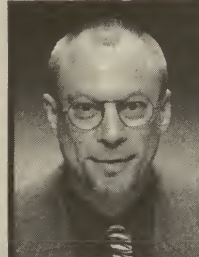
Some gay people counter this kind of argument by saying that if there are different natural behaviors for different species, there may also be different natural behaviors for different individuals within a single species—for gay and straight humans, for example. To some extent, science supports this view: there's plenty of biological research, including my own research on the "gay brain," that suggests that gay and straight people have different genetic endowments and

different prenatal developmental histories. These differences could be said to give gay and straight people natural predispositions to engage in different kinds of sex. To my mind, however, such arguments bear mainly on the social and legal respect that should be accorded to gay people as a distinct class of individuals, and less compellingly on the rightness or wrongness of gay sex. Are gay people who engage in straight sex (perhaps because they want children) or straight people who engage in gay sex (perhaps because they are in a single-sex environment) acting unnaturally and therefore wrongly? I don't think so.

Yet another kind of argument derives from the supposedly self-evident purpose of body parts and bodily functions: the anus is obviously for excretion, sex is obviously for reproduction, therefore anal penetration and gay sex are unnatural and wrong. Again, we are dealing with a style of thought that science has largely abandoned—specifically, the metaphysical doctrine of final causes. Science cannot speak to the ultimate purpose, if any, of the existence of human beings or their anus. But one can counter the specific examples by analogy: the penis too plays a role in excretion, and heterosexual sex also commonly takes place in a non-reproductive context, both in humans and some non-human primates.

In my view, the use of the "unnatural" argument, in any of its forms, is really an attempt to lend a flavor of universality to a point of view that otherwise would seem too individual to serve as a basis for public policy: a point of view that may be based in religious or moral beliefs or in a personal aversion to gay people or the idea of gay sex. With Nature on your side, these beliefs or feelings suddenly take on the stature of absolute truth—or so it is hoped. ▼

Simon LeVay may be reached at SLVay@aol.com.



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Donna Sachet at her holiday best!

'Songs of the Season' for AEF

by Cynthia Laird

Get ready for a treat as the holiday season gets into full swing. *Donna Sachet's Songs of the Season* is coming to the Paradise Lounge and Transmission Theatre for two shows only, on Thursday and Friday, December 4 and 5. One hundred percent of the \$20 ticket price will benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF), one of the city's most respected organizations. AEF is undergoing an internal and external examination of its future; a community meeting on Monday, December 8 will provide clients and supporters an opportunity to tell the board of directors what direction the agency should take in the

wake of significant changes with the AIDS epidemic. (See related story, facing page.)

"This is the third year and the biggest event ever," Sachet, a long-time supporter of AEF, told the B.A.R. "The shows will vary slightly for each night."

Sachet, Miss Gay San Francisco XX, Absolute Empress XXX, and the 1995 Cable Car Entertainer of the Year, is well-known throughout the city for her sparkling wit on the microphone and genuine musical talents at countless fundraisers and other events over the years.

Donna Sachet's Songs of the Season will feature a dazzling holiday setting and entertainment from some of San Francisco's finest, including the comedy of Danny Williams and T.J. Istvan, the music of The Bearstones and J. Brian Washman, and performances by Brian Benamati, among many others still to be confirmed. There will also be a silent auction and a delicious buffet, donated by Harvey's.

In fact, Sachet said one of the amazing things about the event was her ability to get other bars to help out, for which she is grateful. "People sponsoring include bars, which is interesting, as the event is being held at another bar," said Sachet. Supporters include Daddy's, Marlena's, and The Edge. "I think the key is we'll have that holiday feeling, to have fun and raise money for the best group for AIDS services in San Francisco," Sachet said.

Support is widespread for AEF, which had its start in San Francisco's leather community and spends about 86 percent of its \$1.7 million annual budget on direct emergency financial assistance for people living with



Donna Sachet

HIV/AIDS in San Francisco and nine surrounding counties. Sachet is one of this year's AEF honorary co-chairs, along with Jeff Getty and Dave Morey from K-FOG radio station.

Sachet's shows next week will be the third in a series of recent fundraisers for AEF. In September, ZZA's Restaurant in Oakland held the first-ever East Bay benefit that wasn't held in a bar, and raised \$5,000; an October San Francisco event at the Parker House bed-and-breakfast raised another \$6,800. ▼

Tickets can be purchased at the door for *Donna Sachet's Songs of the Season* at the Paradise Lounge & Transmission Theatre, 11th and Folsom streets. The evening starts with a 6 p.m. party, followed by the show at 8 both nights.

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Raising accountability to new heights AEF needs your input

by Cynthia Laird

The future services provided by the AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF) - specifically, the amount of cash grants paid on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS, and other issues - will be out front and on the table for community members next Monday, December 8. The board of directors will hold a public forum at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco that evening to see what direction people want the agency to take. In some ways, next week's meeting is taking the accountability issue to new heights; rather than making service changes behind closed doors, AEF's board wants direct feedback from the people who have benefited from the agency, and those who may have to utilize its services in the future.

The problem, not surprisingly, is money: there's not enough of it. In March, AEF's board reluctantly voted to reduce the amount of money it pays for rent, utilities, or other emergencies, from \$500 to \$400 per person per year. Ken Turner, board president, and Leslie Ewing, board member, said it was a gut-wrenching decision to make.

At the community forum, Turner said the board will present budget information and other statistics showing the dramatic increase in clients the organization serves, which is due in part to the recent AIDS treatments and the

fact that some people are experiencing success on them. AEF serves about 4,000 people in 10 Bay Area counties.

Because of these factors, AEF is faced with a projected budget shortfall and needs to raise \$1.7 million in private or grant funds next year. "We worked hard to raise \$1.5 million," Turner said, adding that federal Ryan White CARE funds for Alameda County were not increased this year, since that planning council changed its requirements for contractors.

"To raise the kind of money there's a demand for, we have to drastically change the structure of the organization," Ewing told the B.A.R. "What's more important, the survival of the organization, or raising money at any cost?"

Turner said there are several options the board will present to the community, in addition to seeking their suggestions for changes. Among the ones Turner and Ewing mentioned is hiring a

development director-type person to raise money. That, most likely, would cost money, and AEF has long been recognized as one of the most cost-efficient AIDS service organizations (ASO) in San Francisco; it has no paid executive director, and 86 percent of its \$1.7 million annual budget is spent providing direct emergency financial assistance to clients. If a development director or other administrator is hired, that percentage could change.

Ewing and Turner said the bottom line, for the board, is getting people in the community to come to next week's meeting so that they can get their thoughts and suggestions. The future of AEF may depend on it. ▼

The December 8 meeting starts at 7 p.m. at MCC-SF, 150 Eureka Street. For more information, call Ewing at (415) 558-6989.

Clean-cut crook

◀ page 2

gay to the rest of the world," he said. "But now I realize that it's important to speak out. I'm amazed at how many don't speak out because they think it's a large city and these things happen," Harris said.

Harris also said that he has experienced significant post-traumatic stress related to the mug-

ging.

"It's been three weeks now, and I still feel like I'm on edge. My life flashed before my eyes, and I realized that I could be dead in a matter of seconds," Harris told the Bay Area Reporter. "I realize now that life is worth living."

Harris has also contacted Community United Against Violence and the District Attorney's Victim/Witness Program for assistance. ▼

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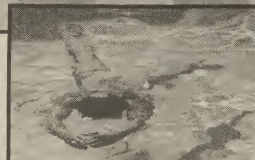


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Sex Panic activists release manifesto

by Liz Highleyman

Pro-sex activists from around the country gathered November 13 for a Sex Panic Summit in San Diego, held in conjunction with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change conference.

The purpose of the summit, was to bring together activists, writers, and theorists to discuss recent crackdowns on queer sex and the existence of sexually conservative forces within the gay and lesbian movement.

The summit began with Allan Berube, a MacArthur Fellow, presenting a history of sex panics. Berube claimed that anti-sex repression is motivated by a "fear of moral monsters," and often follows successful activism by marginalized groups. The media whips up anti-sex frenzies by tapping into archetypal images such as "rapacious black men, lesbian mothers, welfare queens, 'Patient Zeroes,' promiscuous gay men, traitorous prostitutes, and S/M practitioners," which in turn sets in motion demands for government intervention.

Although much of the coverage of sexual repression and current pro-sex activism has been focused on gay men's public sexual activity, other groups are also affected. Eva Pendleton, a member of New York City's SexPanic group, asserted that "public sexual culture is not just gay men sucking each other off in bathrooms," and asked, "What's in it for lesbians, and for women in general?"

UCSD literature professor Judith Halberstam began to answer that question by drawing parallels between the current debate over public sex within the gay community and the "sex wars" of the 1970s and 1980s during which lesbian feminists split over issues such as pornography, butch/femme, and S/M. "We may want feminism," she declared, "but we may not want feminist sex." Halberstam emphasized that the lesbian sexual culture of monogamy held up by some as a model for gay men is largely a myth.

Summit organizers were eager to have some concrete action come out of the meeting, rather than just having the converted preach to each other. To that end, five small working groups met to discuss specific areas such as building coalitions and making pro-sex activism relevant to different populations.

One group prepared a "manifesto" to be presented at Creating Change. Entitled "A Declaration of Sexual Rights," the manifesto affirms the principles of sexual and reproductive self-determination, the right to a publicly accessible sexual culture, and freedom from government intervention. The declaration's demands include respect for sexual diversity, decriminalization of consensual sex practices, an end to censorship, recognition of the right of youth to sexual freedom, an end to the scapegoating of people with HIV/AIDS, an end to harassment of sex workers and legal sanctions against paid sex, and an end to the prohibition and stigmatization of public sex.

A community forum following the summit opened up the discussion to a broader range of perspectives, but the composition of the panel was controversial. Some felt that the forum represented only the sex radical "side," while others believed that the "other

side" already has disproportionate exposure. Journalist Michelangelo Signorile was invited, then disinvited, then reinvited at the last minute after he had made another commitment. Gabriel Rotello declined to attend because the forum was "overwhelmingly one-sided." Both sent open letters explaining their views and responding to criticism against them.

Tony Valenzuela, a writer and sex worker who seroconverted while working as an HIV educator, decried what he called "safe sex absolutism," declaring that "sex lite — sex that tastes like Styrofoam — eventually leads to binging." Writer Eric Rofes stated that the sex debate is different today in that there are gay men on both sides. "Twenty years ago, we heard Anita Bryant and Paul Cameron insisting gay male sex is diseased and suicidal," he said, "and these days we hear gay men saying the exact same thing." Rofes had especially harsh words for those members of the gay community who go beyond disagreement and "cross the line" into calling on the state to crack down on gay sex. Margaret



Tony Valenzuela

Cerullo of Hampshire College suggested that the current crackdown on public sex is part of the "attack on everything public," including public health, public art, and public schools.

Speaking from the audience, long-time lesbian activist Robin Tyler decried the polarization of the debate and the branding of those who bring up issues of sexual health and responsibility as 'neo-cons.' "It does upset me to see gay men still getting sick," she said. Characterizing lesbians as the "wife" of the gay movement,

Tyler declared, "Do what you want, but I'm not going to clean up after you this time." In reply, HIV-positive youth activist Alex Garner emphasized that "consenting adults have the right to make a decision to have unsafe sex and to become infected. We have to allow this if people have control over their own bodies."

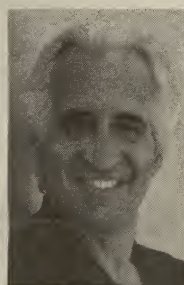
Another audience member challenged national organizations to take a stand against sexual repression. NGLTF Executive Director Kerry Lobel said she was well aware of crackdowns going on across the country, but that work needs to be done at a local level. Lobel said, "People in our community do not care that people are being arrested, because they don't want to be associated with those who are arrested," and pledged her organization's support for local efforts.

Saturday's workshops at Creating Change included a full track on sex-panic related issues. "Race, Class and Gender Analysis" focused on how sex panics and sexual repression affect populations other than gay white men. "Combating

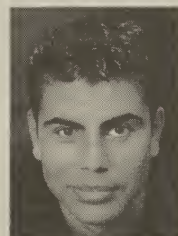
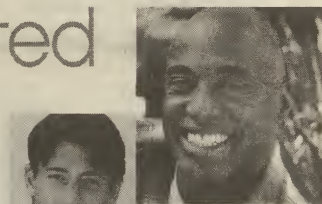
Sex Panic" brought together activists from New York City, Los Angeles, and San Francisco to talk about how regulation of public sex spaces had been dealt with in their cities. A workshop on "Pro-Sex HIV Prevention for Gay Men" featured Scott Tucker, Hector Carillo of the Stop AIDS Project, and "Savage Love" columnist Dan Savage, who declared, "We need to do away with AIDS education — what we need is sex education."

Rofes and CUSP co-founder Race Bannon plan to organize a meeting this winter to discuss local sex panic-related issues, which recently have included the controversy over the Department of Public Health's sex club regulations, and the brouhaha over sexually explicit material in the Castro. ▼

To receive a full copy of the Declaration of Sexual Rights or to add your individual or group endorsement, send e-mail to race@bannon.com or sexpanicnyc@geocities.com, or write to SexPanic, 349 West 12th St., New York, NY 10014.



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Town meeting mixes public, public ideals

by Mark Mardon

It was cooked up as a forum on censorship, but what last Friday's Town Meeting at the Metropolitan Community Church finally boiled down to was a good old-fashioned public debate over morality. People wanted to talk about what kind of values they, as model gay men, lesbians, and transgender folk, wanted to project to the world at large, within their city in general, and to people on Castro Street specifically. A spirited exchange resulted, with penises being alternately praised and condemned as symbols of what the queer community stands for.

The massing Huns of fundamentalist Christian conservatism have not succeeded in breaching San Francisco's defenses and penetrating to the very heart of hedonism in America; the balance of opinion at the forum was decidedly tipped in favor of allowing images of penises to be displayed on flyers and in store windows. In part that was because leaders of

the opposition, those condemning the blatant public display of phallic images, failed to show up, thereby leaving their forces not only greatly outnumbered, but without an effective spokesperson.

Still, those few brave souls who dared to speak up for modesty, on behalf of shielding children from displays of sexuality, and in favor of old-fashioned Puritan values, made a valiant attempt to sway the audience to their way of thinking.

"I believe this firmly in my heart, that little kids do not need to know so much about sex," said a garrulous John Silverman, who works at a store on Castro Street where kids frequently come in to buy toys. "I do not believe it constitutes censorship to ask merchants to cover a display for one hour. Kids don't need to see Gumby and Pokey fucking each other in the ass."

Silverman, who emerged as a principal spokesperson for those wanting to keep Castro Street free from blatant sexual imagery, said he grew up with nudity in the home, appreciates nudity in great



From the heart: Moderator Joan Jett Blakk holds the mike for Gretchen Atwood at the Nov. 21 MCC town meeting.

works of art at museums, and has no problem in general with nudity. What he objects to, he said, are depictions of sex acts: "I did not go into the Metropolitan Museum

of Art and see people made out of marble fucking each other. You don't see it. It's not necessary to see it. You learn that at home. I think people have a right to keep that out of the minds of children."

Panelist Jonathan Katz, head of the gay-studies program at City College, who regularly takes students on tours of art museums to study their queer imagery, countered that in fact at the Metropol-

itan Museum, there are lots of images of fucking.

"The situation reminds me of what Michaelangelo went through when he put naked images on the Sistine Chapel," said Katz. "People felt it was detrimental to Catholicism. The images were covered up, only to be restored about three years ago."

The point is, continued Katz, cultural standards repeatedly change. "The best thing we can do is to cast the brightest light possible on those standards of obscenity and see what is invested in keeping the blinds drawn."

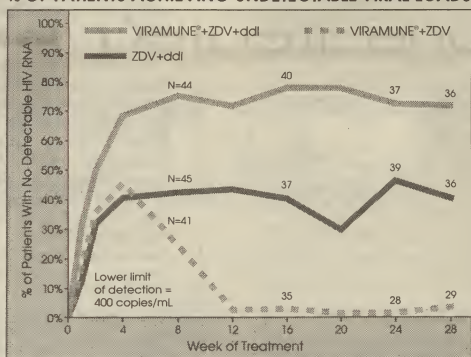
Katz began the forum on an theoretical note by stating that he wanted to make a special pleading on behalf of penises. He observed that dyke author Dorothy Allison once wrote that penises are the source of literary irony, that something so small and vulnerable should be understood as so big and all-powerful. "There's a kind of inverse relationship between penises and phalluses," he said. "The more you expose penises, the less phallic power you have," and the more you see them as it as small and fleshy and real.

His comments were echoed by Jaron Kanegson, a transgender-identified dyke, who said that "the way to demystify penis power is to let people see it. It's flesh. As a

page 27 ►

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Celebration of desire

by Aiden Shaw

The following statement was written by the subject of the photograph used to advertise the Sexball, and was released at the censorship forum. The flyer for Sexball and the A Different Light window display featuring the photo of Shaw were significant catalysts for the current debate about censorship.

I'm both pleased and concerned that the Pierre and Gilles image of myself has been a catalyst for this discussion. I can't believe it is in 1997. It seems like an old debate. I can't help wondering why it has renewed importance.

- A. Why is there so much sex negativity?
- B. Why is this happening now?

We seem to be at a turning point in the AIDS crisis. It seems only natural now that we should have conflicting opinions about the place of sex in our society. After a time of both external and self-repression, many are trying to reevaluate, even reclaim sex within their lives. It's something we've been through before, as teenagers. I imagine some of the same conservative, Christian, heterosexist values are still at play.

I was in the Castro a couple of weeks ago, and I saw many other images of hard-ons, some even with cum dribbling from them. But it seems the Pierre and Gilles portrait is more offensive. I think the complexity of this particular image is being overlooked. I think there are many reasons why one might find it shocking:

1. The figure, surrounded by teddy bears, implies child sex.
2. The fact that it is in a shop window implies bartering sex.
3. The iconography of the image, airbrushed to perfection, suggests a physical ideal that even I can't live up to.

4. The figure is isolated and detached. This is at odds to what many think sex should be about, but at the same time reminding too many of us exactly what sex is usually about.

I don't want to defend any of these things, but I won't deny they exist, either. They confront us with aspects of ourselves that we would like to deny. I do believe the image is a part of a time that we are moving away from. Its fetishistic vision of physical perfection, its emotional distance and untouchability, and the centrality of sex in our lives seem, in part, a response to the complexities of AIDS.

I don't intend hatred or anger to be a response to this image. But I also don't want future generations to fear their own sexuality. Subverting honest sexual images can only hinder in the education of young people, making informed decisions about sex less likely. Personally, I don't wish on anyone the confusion and shame I have felt over the years. It has wasted so much of my youth. I'd rather this image be seen as a celebration of desire, unperverted by adult sensibilities. At best, sex can be an expression of love, life, and joy. I'd rather this image be seen in that way. ▼

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THE DURATION OF BENEFIT FROM ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY MAY BE LIMITED. ALTERATION OF ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IF DISEASE PROGRESSION OCCURS WHILE PATIENTS ARE RECEIVING VIRAMUNE[®].

RESISTANT VIRUS EMERGES RAPIDLY AND UNIFORMLY WHEN VIRAMUNE[®] IS ADMINISTERED AS MONOTHERAPY. THEREFORE, VIRAMUNE[®] SHOULD ALWAYS BE ADMINISTERED IN COMBINATION WITH AT LEAST ONE ADDITIONAL ANTIRETROVIRAL AGENT.

VIRAMUNE[®] HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SEVERE RASH, WHICH IN SOME CASES HAVE BEEN LIFE-THREATENING. WHEN SEVERE RASH OCCURS, VIRAMUNE[®] MUST BE DISCONTINUED.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: VIRAMUNE[®] IS CONTRAINDICATED IN PATIENTS WITH CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT HYPERSENSITIVITY TO ANY OF THE COMPONENTS CONTAINED IN THE TABLET.

WARNINGS: Severe and life-threatening skin reactions have occurred in patients treated with VIRAMUNE[®], including Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS). VIRAMUNE[®] must be discontinued in patients developing a severe rash or a rash accompanied by constitutional symptoms such as fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, swelling, muscle or joint aches, or general malaise. (See PRECAUTIONS, Information for Patients; ADVERSE REACTIONS)

VIRAMUNE[®] therapy must be initiated with a 14-day lead-in period of 200 mg/day, which has been shown to reduce the frequency of rash. Dose escalation should not occur if rash is observed during this lead-in period until the rash has resolved. (See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION)

PRECAUTIONS: General: When administering VIRAMUNE[®] as part of an antiretroviral treatment regimen, the complete product information for each therapeutic component should be consulted before initiation of treatment.

While nevirapine is extensively metabolized by the liver and nevirapine metabolites are extensively eliminated by the kidney, the pharmacokinetics of nevirapine have not been evaluated in patients with either hepatic or renal dysfunction. Therefore, VIRAMUNE[®] should be used with caution in these patient populations.

Abnormal liver function tests have been reported with VIRAMUNE[®], some in the first few weeks of therapy, including cases of hepatitis. VIRAMUNE[®] administration should be interrupted in patients experiencing moderate or severe liver function test abnormalities until liver function tests return to baseline values. VIRAMUNE[®] treatment should be permanently discontinued if liver function abnormalities recur on readministration.

Drug Interactions: Although clinical studies have not been conducted, induction of CYP3A by nevirapine may result in lower plasma concentrations of other concomitantly administered drugs that are extensively metabolized by CYP3A. (See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY) Thus, if a patient has been stabilized on a dosage regimen for a drug metabolized by CYP3A, and begins treatment with VIRAMUNE[®], dose adjustments may be necessary.

Rifampin/Rifabutin: There are insufficient data to assess whether dose adjustments are necessary when nevirapine and rifampin or rifabutin are coadministered. Therefore, these drugs should only be used in combination if clearly indicated and with careful monitoring.

Protease Inhibitors: Nevirapine may decrease plasma concentrations of protease inhibitors. Therefore, until clinical data are available that evaluate the need for dose adjustments, these drugs should not be administered concomitantly with VIRAMUNE[®].

Oral Contraceptives: There are no clinical data on the effects of nevirapine on the pharmacokinetics of oral contraceptives. Nevirapine may decrease plasma concentrations of oral contraceptives (also other hormonal contraceptives); therefore, these drugs should not be administered concomitantly with VIRAMUNE[®].

Information for Patients: Patients should be informed that VIRAMUNE[®] is not a cure for HIV-1 infection, and that they may continue to experience illnesses associated with advanced HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. Treatment with VIRAMUNE[®] has not been shown to reduce the incidence or frequency of such illnesses, and patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using VIRAMUNE[®].

Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of VIRAMUNE[®] are unknown at this time. They should also be informed that VIRAMUNE[®] therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV-1 to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be instructed that the major toxicity of VIRAMUNE[®] is rash and should be advised to promptly notify their physician of any rash. The majority of rashes associated with VIRAMUNE[®] occur within the first 6 weeks of initiation of therapy. Therefore, patients should be monitored carefully for the appearance of rash during this period. Patients should be instructed that dose escalation is not to occur if any rash occurs during the two-week lead-in dosing period, until the rash resolves. Any patient experiencing severe rash or a rash accompanied by constitutional symptoms such as fever, blistering, oral lesions, conjunctivitis, swelling, muscle or joint aches, or general malaise should discontinue medication and consult a physician.

Patients should be informed to take VIRAMUNE[®] every day as prescribed. Patients should not alter the dose without consulting their doctor. If a dose is missed, patients should take the next dose as soon as possible. However, if a dose is skipped, the patient should not double the next dose. VIRAMUNE[®] may interact with some drugs; therefore, patients should be advised to report to their doctor the use of any other medications.

Patients should be instructed that oral contraceptives and other hormonal methods of birth control should not be used as a method of contraception in women taking VIRAMUNE[®].

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Long-term carcinogenicity studies of nevirapine in animals are currently in progress. In genetic toxicology assays, nevirapine showed no evidence of mutagenic or clastogenic activity in a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays including microbial assays for gene mutation (Ames, Salmonella strains and *E. coli*), mammalian cell gene mutation assays (CHO/HGPRT), cytogenetic assays using a Chinese hamster ovary cell line and a mouse bone marrow micronucleus assay following oral administration. In reproductive toxicology studies, evidence of impaired fertility was seen in female rats at doses providing systemic exposure, based on AUC, approximately equivalent to that provided with the recommended clinical dose of VIRAMUNE[®].

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C: No observable teratogenicity was detected in reproductive studies performed in pregnant rats and rabbits. In rats, a significant decrease in fetal body weight occurred at doses providing systemic exposure approximately 50% higher, based on AUC, than that seen at the recommended human clinical dose. The maternal and developmental no-observable-effect level dosages in rats and rabbits produced systemic exposures approximately equivalent to or approximately 50% higher, respectively, than those seen at the recommended daily human dose, based on AUC. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. VIRAMUNE[®] should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Fallon Building may be landmark

Advisory board to initiate process Dec. 17

by Cynthia Laird

Friends of 1800 Market Street won the first round in their fight with the Community Center Project (CCP), to save the 103-year-old Victorian that sits on the proposed site for San Francisco's Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Community Center.

Last Wednesday, November 19, the city's Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board voted unanimously to hold a hearing next month to pursue whether the Fallon Building should be examined for landmark status. The board cannot make a final determination; it merely advises the Planning Commission, and any decision by that body is forwarded to the Board of Supervisors and ultimately, Mayor Willie Brown, who has said that he's no friend of Fallon, so to speak.

"The [CCP] board met and concluded that goddamn old building has no social significance anyway. It was really costly," Brown told a crowd of 1,000 community center supporters at their November 14 dinner gala. Then, acknowledging protesters outside the Hyatt Embarcadero, he added, "People around us prefer no change at all."

If the landmarks board votes to initiate landmark status for the building, the matter goes to the Planning Commission. If the commission approves landmark status, the matter goes before the Board of Supervisors.

After more than two hours of public testimony — complete with reports, architectural drawings, pe-

titions, and passionate arguments by more than 20 speakers on both sides of the issue — landmarks board member Paul Finwall, a recent Brown appointee, made the motion setting the stage for another hearing on Wednesday, December 17. It was approved 7-0.

Tom Mayer and Jim Siegel, of Friends of 1800 Market Street, met with Brown during his open house Saturday, November 22. On Sunday, Mayer and supporters were at 18th and Castro streets, passing out flyers.

"The mayor said he'd like to lower the level of rhetoric," Mayer told the B.A.R. "He said he would make his conference room available for talks." Mayer said he and Siegel asked about their people being allowed to get inside the Victorian to come up with an estimate for renovation.

Dean Goodwin, the mayor's liaison to the queer community, clarified that Brown challenged Friends of 1800 Market not to focus on the negative aspects of the issue. Additionally, the mayor said if Friends of 1800 Market Street is serious about saving the building, they should work to secure financial support, based on estimates already made by architects and others.

"The mayor ended the session saying he just wanted the community center built," Goodwin told the B.A.R.

In other recent developments, Mayer said he called Brenda Barnett, CCP board president, following his visit with the mayor, to fill her in. "I said, 'Willie would like us to get together,'" No date for any mediation has been set.

The Fallon Building and adjacent property were purchased with \$1.1 million in city funds last year; the fight to save the Victorian started in earnest following the CCP board's September meeting, when board members unanimously voted to construct an entirely new community center. That would require demolishing the Victorian, which sat vacant and was repeatedly vandalized over the last several years.

In the beginning, the CCP board had led the community to believe the building would be renovated. "The proposed facility ... will include a renovated Victorian building and a newly-constructed building next door," the CCP brochure states. More recently, board members have said the community center will lose up to 10,000 square-feet of space if the Victorian is renovated; a planned child watch area, 400-seat auditorium, and meeting rooms could be among the things sacrificed.

Present tense

The landmarks advisory board clearly had CCP board members on the defensive at times during Wednesday's frequently tense hearing. Several questioned whether the CCP ever planned to save the Victorian, and asked why CCP's earlier estimate of only \$650,000 for renovation of the three-story structure skyrocketed to between \$1.6 and \$2.6 million.

CCP architects and board members have said the major increase in renovation costs is because the building is constructed on top of sand, and major struc-

Nursing Mothers: Preliminary results from an ongoing pharmacokinetic study (ACTG 250) of 10 HIV-1-infected pregnant women who were administered a single oral dose of 100 or 200 mg VIRAMUNE[®] at a median of 5.8 hours before delivery, indicate that nevirapine readily crosses the placenta and is found in breast milk. Consistent with the recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV, mothers should discontinue nursing if they are receiving VIRAMUNE[®].

Pediatric Use: Safety and effectiveness of VIRAMUNE[®] in pediatric patients have not been established. VIRAMUNE[®] has been studied in two open-label, uncontrolled trials (BI 882, BI 892) in 37 HIV-1-infected pediatric patients with a median age of 0.9 years (range: 0.1 to 15 years) who were treated for a median duration of 20.7 months. Seven patients developed rashes while receiving VIRAMUNE[®]. In an ongoing, controlled trial of VIRAMUNE[®] combination therapy in HIV-1-infected pediatric patients (ACTG 245), one of approximately 288 patients treated with VIRAMUNE[®] experienced Stevens-Johnson syndrome.

Because there are no data on multi-dose pharmacokinetics in children, no recommendation on dosing can be made. Based on single-dose pharmacokinetics in 9 HIV-1-infected pediatric patients (age 9 mos. to 14 years) who were administered nevirapine in a suspension formulation, it appears that oral clearance is approximately 2-fold greater in children when compared to adults.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: The most frequently reported adverse events related to VIRAMUNE[®] therapy were rash, fever, nausea, headache, and abnormal liver function tests.

The major clinical toxicity of VIRAMUNE[®] is rash, with VIRAMUNE[®]-attributable rash occurring in 17% of patients in combination regimens in Phase I/II controlled studies. Thirty-seven percent of patients treated with VIRAMUNE[®] experienced rash compared with 20% of patients treated in control groups of either ZDV+ddi or ZDV alone (Table 1). Severe or life-threatening rash occurred in 7.6% of VIRAMUNE[®]-treated patients compared with 1.2% of patients treated in the control groups.

Rashes are usually mild to moderate, maculopapular/erythematous cutaneous eruptions, with or without pruritus, located on the trunk, face and extremities. The majority of severe rashes occurred within the first 28 days of treatment; 25% of the patients with severe rashes required hospitalization; and one patient required surgical intervention. All patients recovered. Overall, 7% of patients discontinued VIRAMUNE[®] due to rash.

Table 1: Percentage of patients with rashes in controlled trials^a

	ACTG 241 ^b		BI 1037		BI 1011		COMBINED DATA	
	NVP+ZDV+ddi	ZDV+ddi	NVP+ZDV	ZDV	NVP+ZDV	ZDV	NVP	CONTROL
n	197	201	30	30	25	24	252	255
Rash events of all Grades and all causality	39.6	23.9	26.7%	6.7%	32.0%	4.2%	37.3%	20.0%
Grade 3 or 4 rash events, all causality	8.1%	1.5%	3.3%	0%	8.0%	0%	7.6%	1.2%

^a At recommended dose of one 200 mg tablet daily for the first 14 days followed by one 200 mg tablet twice daily.

^b Trial ACTG 241 was designed to report Grade 3/4 (severe or life-threatening) events; except for several pre-specified events including rash for which all grades are reported.

Table 2 lists treatment-related clinical adverse events that occurred in patients receiving VIRAMUNE[®] in ACTG 241 and in Trials BI 1037 and BI 1011.

Table 2: Comparative Incidence of Selected Drug-Related Events in Controlled Trials

	ACTG 241		Trial BI 1037 and BI 1011	
	Grade 3/4 events		All severities	
	NVP+ZDV+ddi	ZDV+ddi	NVP+ZDV	ZDV alone
Number of patients	197	201	55	30
Overall incidence of related adverse events	31%	23%	42%	33%
Rash	2	2	20	3
Fever	3	3	11	3
Nausea	5	4	9	3
Headache	3	3	11	0
Diarrhea	2	2	0	0
Abdominal pain	1	2	2	0
Ulcerative stomatitis	0	0	4	0
Peripheral Neuropathy	0	2	0	0
Paresthesia	1	0	2	0
Myalgia	1	0	2	7
Hepatitis	1	0	4	0

Laboratory Abnormalities: Table 3 summarizes marked laboratory abnormalities occurring in three controlled studies.

Table 3: Percentage of patients with marked laboratory abnormalities

	Data combined for controlled trials ACTG 241, BI 1037 & BI 1011	
	VIRAMUNE [®] n=252	Control n=255
Hematology		
Decreased Hg (<8.0 g/dL)	1.2%	2.0%
Decreased platelets (<50,000/mm ³)	0.8	0.8
Decreased neutrophils (<750/mm ³)	11.1	10.2
Blood chemistry		
Increased ALT (>250 U/L)	3.4	3.5
Increased AST (>250 U/L)	2.0	2.4
Increased GGT (>450 U/L)	2.4	1.2
Increased total bilirubin (>2.5 mg/dL)	0.4	1.2

Asymptomatic elevations in GGT levels are more frequent in VIRAMUNE[®] recipients than in controls. Because hepatitis has occasionally been reported in VIRAMUNE[®]-treated patients, monitoring of liver function tests should be known.

OVERDOSAGE: There is no known antidote for VIRAMUNE[®] overdosage. No acute toxicities or sequelae were reported for one patient who ingested 800 mg of VIRAMUNE[®] for one day.

CAUTION FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS DISPENSING WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION

Reference: 1. Data on file, Roxane Laboratories, Inc.



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RX-1841BW (8/97)

COMMUNITY NEWS

tural upgrades will be required to change what was a residential building into one used for commercial purposes.

"What was missing here?" asked Daniel Reidy, president of the landmarks board. "Were figures low-balled or unrealistic to begin with?"

Barnette said the \$650,000 renovation estimate was arrived at after a walk-through by two contractors as well as members of the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage last year, well before the design competition. After the design was chosen, however, a \$25,000, three-month feasibility study was conducted by winning architects Jane Cee and Peter Pfau. Their finding was staggering to the board, Barnette said.

"Our \$650,000 estimate to save the Victorian was not even close. It has been confirmed that the cost is actually \$1.6 to \$2.6 million, plus a factor of unpredictability," said Barnette. "We had promised our donors we would deliver a debt-free building that would be self-sustaining. We had anticipated annual fundraising to provide programs to serve and strengthen the community, but not ongoing fundraising to maintain and operate a costly building."

The cost of renovating has been among the more hotly debated aspects of the controversy, with figures flying between the CCP board and preservationists. In particular, Friends of 1800 Market have stated that the building could be renovated for as little as \$120 per square-foot. Dave Latina, chair of the CCP's building committee, refuted the lower figures, some of which came from the recently completed renovation of the historic Notre Dame High School at Dolores and 16th streets. Latina works for



Anne Bloomfield

Mercy Charities Housing of California, which rehabbed the former high school.

"It has been suggested that the numbers to rehab 1800 Market are falsely inflated," he said. "Notre Dame is one of the city's most expensive renovations. It has not yet been mentioned in any comparison that Notre Dame had a \$1.5 million increase from its original budget, which can be directly attributed to the historic rehab requirements."

Past perfect

The Fallon Building is named for Carmel Fallon (1827-1923), a member of the landed California family for which Castro Street was named. While Carmel Fallon's personal contribution to the community is minor, said architectural historian Anne Bloomfield in a report to the landmarks board, she was remarkable for her era. Even more important and historically significant, however, is the fact that the Fallon Building escaped the earthquake and fire of 1906, which destroyed the opposite side of Market Street as far as Guerrero, and on another side, reached one block away to Gough Street.

"I'll try to convince you of the landmark quality of this building," Bloomfield said before delivering her report.

Regarding the interior of the Fallon Building, Bloomfield acknowledged that she has not been inside the structure. "I am told it is [in a] very good state of preservation. The integrity is very good," Bloomfield said.

That's in direct contradiction to Cee and Pfau's report, which stated the interior of the building has basically been trashed by squatters and others who have illegally inhabited it over the years.

Bloomfield said the Victorian has also been determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places based on consensus in 1997 between the State Historic Preservation Office and the Federal Highway Administration in conjunction with the Central Freeway replacement project. It was also determined to be a contributor to the Hayes Valley Historic District in a 1996 report by the state and the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in connection with Hayes Valley housing projects.

Future indefinite

If the Fallon Building is eventually declared a historic landmark, the future of the community center could be in doubt. Although a small portion of the lot is vacant, any decision to use that space to construct a vertical community center six stories or taller could be controversial too, particularly with neighboring residents.

Mayer said he supports the building of a gay community center. "But I also support the presence of the Fallon Building."

Rob Bregoff, also of Friends of 1800 Market, said he's volun-

teered for the CCP and supports the building of a community center. "It really disheartens me that we take down what we think is the past," he said, referring to the CCP board's decision.

Others see the need for a community center as an overriding concern. Transgender activist Tamara Ching, who also addressed the landmarks board, is one of those. "I've been a good, strong critic of it, until I investigated. It would include youth, Asians," said Ching. "Almost every building in the 49 square miles [of the city] could be a landmark. I support this [new construction] and planting the seeds in new generations."

"Don't be fooled by smoke screens, the racial bigotry and financial elitism behind all of this," she said.

By far the most humorous moment during last week's tense meeting occurred when Angus White, a consultant for the CCP, addressed the landmarks board and suggested people put the issue into another historical perspective. "Under the reign of Queen Victoria, it was made illegal for men to engage in sex [with men]. The symbolism of a Victorian for the gay/lesbian community center is absurd," said White, as nearly everyone in the room broke into laughter. ▼

The landmarks advisory board is expected to take up the issue at the Wednesday, December 17 meeting, which is held at the Department of Public Health, 101 Grove Street, third floor. The meeting starts at 1:30 p.m. To contact the CCP board, call (415) 437-2257; to contact Friends of 1800 Market, call (415) 643-1236.

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Spend this World AIDS Day in SF, and go to Washington, too

by Dennis Conkin

World AIDS Day originally began as a Day Without Art to draw attention to the AIDS epidemic's terrible impact on the arts, but it quickly evolved into a global commemoration marked by performances, readings, concerts, and services.

Locally, this World AIDS Day will be observed by a series of events by arts and AIDS nonprofit groups on Sunday, November 30 and Monday, December 1. On a national level, the AIDS Action Council in Washington, DC has announced that President Clinton will inaugurate the group's new "Until It's Over" online site December 1. The site is billed as the world's first electronic march on Washington, where users will be

able to download previously taped but unreleased video where Clinton discusses Youth HIV Prevention issues.

On Sunday, A Different Light Bookstore will co-sponsor a reading and performance by Justin Chin at 2 p.m. at the Trustee's Museum of the Asian Art Museum in Golden Gate Park. Chin will read and perform works related to AIDS. Also on view at the Museum are 40 recent paintings by contemporary Japanese artist Masami Teraoka, whose works include issues of AIDS, gender and sexuality. Museum admission is \$7 for adults.

Also on Sunday, the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts and Art from the Heart Heals will present *Happenstance ... a happening*, a humorous tribute to those touched by the HIV virus, at the Sims Center, located at 1519 Mission Street. The event has a sliding scale fee of \$8-\$10, with no one turned away for lack of funds.

Visual art displays will adorn the Sims Center walls, and studio space will be arranged for the display of three-dimensional works including sculpture and handmade crafts and jewelry. Simultaneous performances will be presented in the three adjoining studios to include stand-up comedy, spoken works, play readings, dance, dance percussion, and songs and music. Performers scheduled to appear include Supervisor Tom Ammiano, Tommi Aviccoli Mecca (who will perform *Tony*, a solo monologue), and Craig Osterberg (who will perform "A Thousand Points of Light" by David Drake from *Larry Kramer Kissed Me*). Performers also include The High Risk Dance Group, John Minagro and associates from *The Phantom Of The Opera*, and the Alma Defina Group.

On Monday, World AIDS Day, The National AIDS Memorial Grove will hold a 9:45 a.m. service at the site in Golden Gate Park. The event is free.

The AIDS Emergency Fund, which has provided life-saving financial assistance to people living with disabling HIV and AIDS since 1982, will conclude a month-long drive for its acclaimed "Every Penny Counts" program with a massive "Count-A-Thon" at Union Square from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hundreds of stu-

dents, businesses, and individuals who participated in the drive will bring their jars of pennies and loose change throughout the day to be counted.

Opera diva Frederica von Stade will perform at the 12 noon Official San Francisco AIDS Memorial Interfaith Service at Grace Cathedral, located at Taylor and Jones streets. The event is free.

The University of California at San Francisco will mark the occasion with the inauguration of its AIDS Research Institute December 1, including a community forum titled "Accelerating Discovery and Overtaking The Virus: Science and Solutions for the Next Era of AIDS." The event will last from 2-5 p.m. at UCSF's Cole Hall in the Medical Sciences Building, located at 513 Parnassus Street. The event will feature speakers Dr. Peter Piot, the executive director of UNAIDS who will give a keynote address, and ARI Director Dr. Tom Coates. Chancellor Haile Debas and Mayor Willie Brown are also expected to make remarks. The event is free.

The Filipino Community in the Bay Area will commemorate World AIDS Day with a 6 p.m. memorial Mass at the old Mission Dolores Church at Dolores and 16th Street, followed by an open house and reception immediately after the service at the offices of the Filipino Task Force On AIDS of Northern California, located at 1540 Market Street, in suite 325. The event is free.

Intersection For The Arts will be the site of a World AIDS Day benefit reading and concert to benefit Leland House, a 45-bed comprehensive AIDS care residential facility in Visitation Valley. The 8 p.m. event at 446 Valencia Street will feature Robert Arriola, Brian Freeman, Joe Goode, Ken Ruta, and Greta Sanchez-Ramirez in a dramatic reading of works by the late Tony Dent, William Dickey, Essex Hemphill, Bo Huston, and Severo Sarui. Performances will be followed by the epicure sounds of Aner. The event has a sliding scale fee of \$7-\$14.

Across the bay

East Bay observances of the annual event include a Candlelight Healing Service and Vigil at the Oakland Federal Building at 12th and Clay Streets sponsored

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CONTACT INFO

For more information, and to confirm locations, times, and ticket fees, contact the following groups and organizations:

The Asian Art Museum - (415) 397-8800
The John Sims Center For The Performing Arts - (415) 554-0402
The National AIDS Memorial Grove - (415) 750-8340
Grace Cathedral - (415) 749-6300
University of California ARI - (415) 597-9203
The Filipino AIDS Task Force of Northern California - 703-9880
AIDS Emergency Fund - (415) 558-6990
Intersection For The Arts - (415) 626 2787
ACT UP/East Bay - (510) 568-1680
The Berkeley Richmond J.C.C. - (510) 848 9237
Office of AIDS Administration - (510) 873-6507
AIDS Action Council - (202) 986-1300 or www.aidsaction.org

COMMUNITY NEWS



Chin up: The Asian Art Museum presents Justin Chin performing *Holy Spook* Nov. 30 at 2 p.m.

by ACT UP/East Bay, the East Bay HIV/AIDS Interfaith Coalition, Alameda County Needle Exchange, and NEED (Berkeley Needle Exchange). Speakers will include Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, members of the Oakland and Berkeley city councils, and local political, AIDS, and religious figures. The event is free. ACT UP/East Bay is also holding a selective raffle of 100 prizes donated by more than 70 local businesses.

• The Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center, at 1414 Walnut Street in Berkeley, will hold An Evening of Remembrance and Insights on the Changing Face of AIDS at 7 p.m. The event features HIV Prevention Point/SF Needle Exchange Project Director Roslyn Allen; Rabbi Allen Bennett of Temple Israel of Alameda; David Greenberg, RN; Cantor Linda Hirschhorn of Temple Beth Shalom of San Leandro; and Marcia Perlstein, MFCC founder and

director of both the East Bay Volunteer AIDS Therapist Project and San Francisco's Alternative Family Project. The event will also honor Avi Rose with the 1997 BRJCC Service Recognition Award. Rose, a longtime AIDS service advocate, is the executive director of Tri City Health Center in Fremont. The event is free.

• Youth in Berkeley, Union City, and Pleasanton will commemorate World AIDS Day with 6 p.m. candlelight vigils at the Black Repertory Theatre, 3201 Adeline Street in Berkeley, and at Kennedy Park Amphitheatre on Elvarado Road in Union City. A 6:30 p.m. vigil will be held at the Valley Community Health Center, at 157 Main Street in Pleasanton. The countywide observances are sponsored by the Alameda County Teen AIDS Prevention Education Program network of HIV prevention providers, including the AIDS Project of the East Bay, Pacific Center, and AMASSI. ▼

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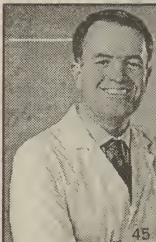
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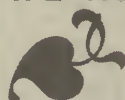
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HIV research news

by Don Howard, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

Forty of the world's leading HIV researchers met last week in Annapolis, Maryland at an NIH-sponsored conference to discuss recent findings on the treatment of early HIV infection. Their findings were a mix of setbacks and advances which impact the treatment of both those newly infected and those who have more experience living with the virus.

Undetectable does not equal uninfected

Data were presented in Maryland which showed that a low level of virus in blood does not equal a low level of virus in semen. This observation was based on nearly 250 samples taken from recently infected patients in the HIVNET vaccine preparedness study. Many researchers and policymakers hope that effective drug therapy will result in declining infectivity and lower levels of new HIV infections. The data presented indicate that this may not be the case. Anecdotal evidence from researchers in Seattle confirmed this fear. Two newly-infected patients from a study group in Seattle have been able to identify their source of infection: someone on combination therapy with undetectable viral load.

Can resistance be passed?

Can you be infected with virus which is resistant to drug treatments? The jury is still out.

During the Maryland meeting, data were presented from early infection studies in the US, Europe, and Australia. These data did not show a pronounced increase in the number of patients who had inherited drug-resistant virus (despite an overall community-wide increase in the use of anti-HIV drug therapies.) Studies of newly infected people from 1988 to 1996 were analyzed to determine if patients were resistant to AZT and 3TC before beginning therapy. In these studies, including a large cohort from Sydney, the number of newly-infected people resistant to either of the two drugs was not increasing. One researcher from Canada speculated that resistant/mutant virus might be less fit

and not as capable of causing infection as wild-type virus.

Eradication postponed: keep taking your pills

In 1996, *Time* magazine's Man of the Year, Dr. David Ho, proposed that HIV might be eradicated if new combination therapies could completely suppress viral replication long enough for all infected cells to die out. Dr. Ho and his colleagues used mathematical models to estimate the lifespans of different types of infected cells and estimated that treatment would have to be maintained for just over three years before the virus would be eradicated from an infected person. He cautioned at the time that these estimates did not take into account possible "long-lived" reservoirs of HIV infection.

Now, researchers have proved the existence of one such long-lived reservoir: latent CD4+ t-cells (called memory cells). The findings are based on an analysis of the latent HIV-infected cells from 22 people who had been undetectable for up to 30

months on combination therapy (at a cutoff of 20 copies/ml). Researchers showed that despite very low levels of latently infected cells (between .2 and 16 per million), these latent cells were capable of producing HIV particles when they were activated. (Inactive cells do not produce new HIV particles.)

For someone on successful combination therapy, this means that, if the drugs are stopped, new HIV particles will reignite HIV infection when these cells become activated. Researchers also found that the number of these cells did not appear to be declining measurably over time when they compared patients who recently began therapy (within 4 months) with others who had been on treatments for 2.5 years.

No one knows just how long these memory cells persist, but at the Maryland meeting, Dr. Tony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, estimated that it could take 11 years or more of continuous completely effective combination therapy before eradication might occur (if ever). And more long-lived reservoirs could still be found.

Now eradication researchers are seeking ways to prompt latent

cells to come out of hiding, activate, and die. Researchers at the Maryland meeting discussed two strategies: stimulating the immune system using cytokines (such as IL2, IL1-Beta, IL6, and TNF-alpha), or immunizing the patient to stimulate cells to activate. Both approaches could pose practical problems because of the toxicities of such treatments.

Good news: resistance not found in latent cells

Despite the declining prognosis for eradication, there was some good news. When the HIV genetic code embedded in these long-lived latent cells was analyzed, it did not show mutation patterns which would indicate that resistance was developing to the drugs being used. No mutations were found in 21 of the 22 patients. Interestingly, one patient did show a mutation for resistance to Ritonavir/Norvir. The patient is currently on a combination therapy but had failed earlier Ritonavir monotherapy. He did not show mutations to his new drugs, and researchers speculated that this cell was infected during the monotherapy period and was essentially an "archive" of the patient's earlier virus.

CD-8s matter

Many people have argued for early treatment of HIV infection based on the eradication theories. (Other arguments have included the near-100% response to therapy in patients treated during early infection, and the improved ability of newly infected patients to withstand the toxicities of the drugs.) But, if eradication isn't likely given current therapies, does early treatment still make sense?

One new argument supporting very early drug treatment came from Massachusetts General Hospital researcher Bruce Walker, who presented data at the Maryland meeting. Dr. Walker showed that the HIV-specific CD8+ killer t-cells which develop during the first weeks of HIV infection (primary infection) are wiped out as the infection stabilizes and never appear to return (even with prolonged combination therapy). These cells, which are programmed to kill HIV infected cells, could be very useful in long-term control or eradication of the virus if they could be saved through very early drug treatment during primary infection (in the first weeks after exposure). ▼



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COMMUNITY NEWS

PEP, early intervention lauded

by Mike Salinas

An international team of researchers collaborating with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published findings Wednesday, November 19 supporting post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), at least for people who accidentally jab themselves with an HIV-contaminated needle.

Dr. Denise Cardo and colleagues collected information on healthcare workers exposed to HIV through accidental cuts or needle jabs and reported in *The New England Journal of Medicine* that they found quick doses of AZT can reduce the disease risk by about 80 percent.

Only 33 of the nearly 700 exposed workers they studied eventually developed AIDS.

In an editorial in the same issue, Dr. David Henderson said gaps in reports have made PEP's effectiveness hard to measure. When earlier versions of Cardo's study were presented, Henderson says, "Many observers were skeptical and reluctant to believe the data." Since then, researchers have added cases from the United Kingdom, France, and Italy.

And although Henderson says even the souped-up version of the study has limitations, he accepts the basic conclusion that the AZT treatment "may well be worthwhile."

No conclusions were offered about prescribing AZT to people who may have contracted the virus through sexual contact or shared needles. A pilot program to provide PEP and counseling to exposed city residents has been established at San Francisco General Hospital, and Stop AIDS Project held a community forum on the topic last Saturday, November 22. ACT UP/San Francisco, a group that is critical of PEP and other antiviral AIDS therapies and is not affiliated in any way with ACT UP/Golden Gate, demanded space on the panel to express those views.

Fauci: intervene early

AIDS research chief Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, also welcomed a new study on early intervention against HIV, which researchers



Uninvited guests: ACT UP/SF members crashed the Nov. 22 Stop AIDS Project panel.

released November 21 in the journal *Science*.

That study shows that patients can preserve key immune responses by starting to take drugs within a few weeks of picking up the virus.

The researchers, in Bruce Walker's lab at Massachusetts General Hospital, treated some of the patients during the phase called acute infection, a burst of fever, skin rash, and malaise that can strike within a few weeks of catching the virus.

Fauci told United Press International the study provides "further evidence for treating people during acute infection — that's the message."

Walker is campaigning for doctors to make an extra effort to spot early signs of the disease, which resemble mononucleosis.

When doctors come across such a case, Walker urges them to ask about any recent high-risk experience. A standard antibody test may not detect signs of the infection this early, so doctors will have to turn to tests for the virus itself.

"This is an illness that is underdiagnosed," he says.

Walker says he does not yet know how long the window of opportunity lasts for patients to preserve the immune response described in the paper. He guesses "probably weeks after infection, perhaps a month." Six months, he says, is too long to wait. ▼

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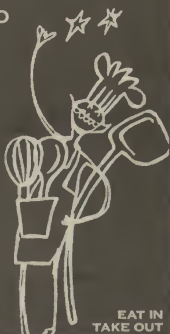
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Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Knud Brandstrup
Jan. 18, 1914 – Nov. 18, 1997

In loving memory of Knud Brandstrup who died of a massive stroke. He was surrounded by his lifetime partner of 47 years, William Peck. Private services were held by the Neptune Society, with cremation and burial in Denmark where he was born.

At a date to be announced, there

will be a celebration of his life at his home at 134 O'Shaughnessy Blvd. in San Francisco. For more information, please call 415/664-0152.

Jonathan Van Wie
Feb. 23, 1945 – Nov. 11, 1997



Jonathan died suddenly and unexpectedly of an apparent heart attack. Born in Buffalo, New York, Jonathan remembered a solitary childhood informed by the books he read and loved. Jonathan at-

tended Colgate University and later the New York School of Design. He moved to New York in the '60s and lived there nearly 30 years.

Jonathan and Jack Flood lived together 11 years in Chelsea until Jack's death from AIDS four years ago. One year ago, Jonathan moved to San Francisco to start life anew and, to his surprise, fell in love again. His worldwide network of friends sustained him as did his 15 years in the Program. His generosity of spirit, big heart, dry humor, playful attitude and fierce dedication to living one day at a time won him new friends. Proud to be a leatherman, he came to know a strong, handsome God who loved him unconditionally. He is survived by many friends and joins countless others in death.

All friends of Jonathan are invited to attend a memorial Sunday, December 7, 3-5 p.m., at the home of David Hoffman, 137 Caselli, San Francisco. Contact David at 552-4667. Sleep in the arms of God, Jonathan. We love you and miss you dearly.

James (Jim) L. Farris
Jan. 4, 1945 – Oct. 31, 1997



Jim passed away peacefully after a long battle with cancer on October 31. He was born in Ohio and had been a resident of San Francisco for 30 years. He worked for the SF-Eagle for the last seven years

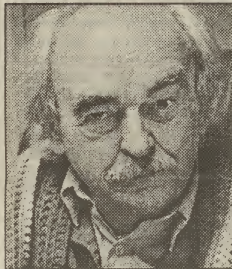
and loved working for the leather community.

Jim is survived by his mother, Catherine; sister, Dixie, both of Ohio; his daughter and son-in-law, Krisie and Klaus, of Novato; beloved friends, Joe, Kenny, Johnny, Bill, Bob, Gary and David; as well as the many friends he had made during his many years in San Francisco.

Jim's love of owls earned him the name of "Owl Man" and anyone who had the privilege of knowing him understood why. He will be deeply missed by all of us. We wish you a peaceful journey, Jim, and will see you somewhere along that journey.

Pioneer gay journalist-historian Jim Kepner dies in L.A. at 74

by Ernie Potvin



Jim Kepner

Jim Kepner, a pioneer gay activist, journalist, historian, and founder of the International Gay and Lesbian Archives, died at Midway Hospital in Los Angeles on November 15, 1997 after an intestinal operation.

Kepner was a monumental icon of dignity and respect in the gay and lesbian community for more than 50 years. His attributed birth is January 1923. He was an abandoned baby believed to be eight months old when found, wrapped in newspapers, on September 19, 1923 in Galveston, Texas. A prize-winning Bible student at age 12, he announced plans to be a missionary in Africa when interviewed by a young newspaper cub, Walter Cronkite. By the time he graduated *cum laude* from Galveston's Ball High School in 1940, he was already questioning his beliefs.

With the outbreak of WWII, he migrated to San Francisco, where he began exploring his youthful feelings of attraction to men and started connecting to the city's homosexual subculture. An avid reader and bibliophile at age 19, he explored the public libraries for every bit of information he could find on same-sex love. Finding very little, he began searching used bookstores in what would become his life's mission to uncover, preserve, and disseminate the true history of lesbian and gay people. His first discovery was the 1928 lesbian novel *The Well of Loneliness*, which started his library collection. It would eventually grow to become the International Gay and Lesbian

Archives, with tens of thousands of volumes, the largest library of its kind in the world.

Prompted by feelings of being out of place in society, Kepner immersed himself in science fiction, and in 1943-45 edited his first publication, *Toward Tomorrow*, a sci-fi fan magazine. He worked at a shipyard during the war and was concerned about multiple social inequities. In his own words, Jim said his religious ideals and sympathies with workers and blacks led him to pacifism and atheism. At war's end he had joined the Communist Party and got his training as a film reviewer for the San Francisco *People's World*, and as a journalist writing a column for the party's New York *Daily Worker* in 1947. Two years later he had a rough hitchhike back to San Francisco after being expelled from the Communist Party when it became known he was homosexual.

One

Around 1952, Kepner moved to Los Angeles and found a small group who had organized America's first successful gay rights orga-

nization, the Mattachine Society, in 1950. In 1953, Kepner became a staff writer for the nation's first publicly declared homophile publication, *ONE* magazine, launched in January of that year by several Mattachine members. This began Kepner's career as a pioneer gay journalist, in which he wrote over 2,000 articles and news reports in many publications of the gay press.

A collection of his early writings is being published next month in the form of a book, *Rough News, Daring Views: Pioneer Gay Journalism* (Haworth Press, 1997).

In August of 1954 the United States Post Office confiscated an issue of *ONE* magazine, declared it "obscene," and refused to allow it to be sent to subscribers through the mails. Kepner and other staff members sued the Post Office, and in 1958 the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of *ONE*, deciding that a serious publication cannot be censored just because it discusses homosexuality as a social issue. This decision gave the gay rights movement its first significant legal victory, and provided the basis for an important expansion of First Amendment guarantees of freedom of the press for all Americans.

In 1956 Kepner was a co-founder of ONE Institute, an educational institution to help homosexuals overcome the negative self-image perpetuated in American society. In ONE's L.A. headquarters they taught the first classes in what would later become known as Gay and Lesbian Studies, covering history, anthropology, sociology, psychology, philosophy, religion, and political science from a gay perspective, long before anyone else in America would think to do such a thing. Jim continued to teach classes, including at the UCLA Experimental College in 1974-75. He gave numerous lectures on gay history in many states.

In 1958 Kepner founded and served as first editor of *ONE Institute Quarterly of Homophile Studies*, the first English-language scholarly journal on homosexuality. He withdrew from the publi-

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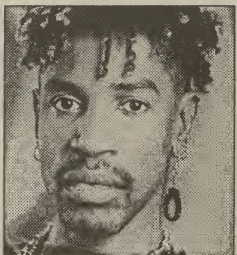
Writer, performance artist Wayne Corbitt dead at 45

by Chris Culwell

Wayne Corbitt, a well-known local writer and performance artist, died Friday, November 21 of AIDS in San Francisco at the age of 45.

Corbitt was born on October 8, 1952, in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he was raised. He briefly attended school at Indiana University in the 1970s before moving to San Francisco to become an artist. He began writing poetry in 1979. His first published work was the poetry cycle *Blackbirds Boogie in the Black Moonlight*, which he later fashioned into a one-person show that he performed at the Valencia Rose and later at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint.

In the early '90s, Corbitt came into his own with acclaimed productions of his plays *Crying Holy*; *The Gospel According to Wayne*; and the one-man show *Fish With Frog's Eyes*, about '80s art star Jean-Michel Basquiat. At the time of his death, Corbitt was working on a new play called *Gethsemane*. Though his plays were unique in tone and style, each reflected the author's concerns with the charged intersections of blacks and gays, otherness, AIDS, families, and the possibility of faith in a faithless age.



Wayne Corbitt in Marc Huestis' *Sex Is*.

Among his other accomplishments, Corbitt was also known for his splendid turn in Marc Huestis's *Sex Is*, a film about gay men and their attitudes toward sex and prevailing mores. "Wayne was so brilliantly real," Huestis said about Corbitt. "He was quiet, with an introspective demeanor, but he would take no shade from anybody and had no problems pushing all sorts of buttons. He was a true artist and a genuinely sweet human being."

Corbitt is survived by his mother, Willie Beatrice Moore; his brother, John Moore; sisters, Carmen Buchanan and Angela Hawkins; and many nieces and nephews. Corbitt was a devoted member of the City of Refuge Community Church at Sixth and Howard, where a memorial service was held for him on November 25. ▼

Kepner

◀ previous page

cation from 1961-63 to enroll at Los Angeles City College, where he studied philosophy, history, and Arabic. He became involved in the radical activism of the 1960s, marching in protests for the empowerment of African-Americans, women, and the peace movement. At the time he supported himself as a taxi driver, which allowed him the flexibility to do his activist work. He was a prime mover in PRIDE, Los Angeles' first lesbian and gay street militant organization, and became an officer of the Southern California Council on Religion and the Homophile.

Pursuit

Kepner often wrote about the fast-breaking news of gay liberation for several gay magazines in the late 1960s and early '70s, including investing his savings to launch his own gay publication *Pursuit*. He was more than a reporter, however, he was a chronicler of the times, and an insightful voice of the burgeoning gay and lesbian community. Also a prime activist, he was centrally involved in establishing L.A.'s gay pride organization, Christopher Street West, following the 1969 Stonewall uprising in New York. CSW has staged L.A.'s lesbian and gay pride parades every year since. In 1972 he was a co-founder of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center at Wilshire Blvd. and Union Street, and years later was a co-founder of the community's Celebration Theatre. In 1979 Kepner helped organize Southern California participation in the first March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, a task he repeated at the 1987 March on Washington.

Through all this time, Kepner continued to collect and preserve

every item of information he could find about lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered persons. Every day, for nearly half a century, he scoured newspapers and clipped any article which mentioned homosexuality. By the 1980s, Kepner's reputation was spreading far and wide. In 1982 Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley appointed Kepner to the city's Bicentennial Organizing Committee. He was honored as "Man of the Year" by Christopher Street West, and received other recognition for his work from the city councils of West Hollywood and Los Angeles, and many organizations around the world.

Nevertheless, the continuing day-to-day work of the archives was becoming more taxing, as Kepner and a group of dedicated volunteers struggled to keep the library abreast with all the information that was now being published about homosexuality. More academic researchers came from around the world, as well as journalists, movie producers, lawyers, students, and others who needed to use its diverse sources. As more books, periodicals, and file cabinets accumulated, the Archives outgrew first its rented storefront space, and later a space donated by the City of West Hollywood.

Kepner is survived by his long-time close friends in ONE Institute and a wide circle of friends in many states. Instead of a funeral, ONE Institute will hold a memorial in early 1998 to commemorate his life and to celebrate five decades of the gay and lesbian rights movement. Everyone who has been touched by Kepner's life, or who supports the gay/lesbian movement around the world, is encouraged to come. In lieu of flowers, donations are being accepted to help operate the library Kepner founded. For information, call (310) 854-0271. ▼

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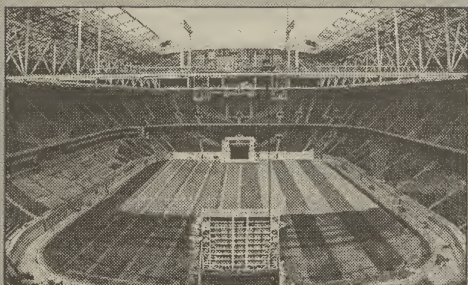
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GAY GAMES UPDATE



Amsterdam Arena

The spectacular Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Gay Games 1998 will be held in a gigantic "spaceship," the Amsterdam Arena. The super stadium, which opened last year, is the home of the 1996 European and World champion soccer team, FC AJAX Amsterdam.

Here are some facts about the Amsterdam Arena:

- There are 51,324 seats for spectators.
 - The spectators can enter through one of the 60 entrances.
 - To reach the highest seats on the upper ring, you have to climb 210 steps.
 - The Amsterdam Arena measures 235 meters long, 180 meters wide, and 75 meters high.
 - It fills a ground area of 35,000 square meters.
 - The total investment for the stadium was 202 million Dutch guilders (about 101 million US dollars).
 - The stadium used 4,000 tons of steel and 70,000 cubic meters of concrete.
 - It is built on 1,673 piles, each of which is 22-meters long, driven into the ground.
 - The solid part of the roof is big: 32,000 square meters, of which 18,000 square meters are transparent.
 - The transparent roof, consisting of two moving panels, can be closed within 20 minutes.
 - Each year, 2,000,000 people visit the Amsterdam Arena.
- [Source: Arena Plaza <http://www.amsterdamarena.nl>]
- During the opening ceremony of Gay Games Amsterdam 1998, we can be proud to be gay in a stadium of which all Dutch people are proud. Gay pride and national pride will melt together in the Amsterdam Arena! ▼

— Dave de Bruin

Big

by Jim Provenzano

We are more important than the Catholic religion.

Who said this? Not any of the Beatles. It was International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch. It seems Juan Antonio, oh, excuse me, His Holiness, believed that the high point of the '96 Olympic Games was more important than some other event, like maybe the second coming of Christ.

I don't know what it is, but it gives one warning about what to consider when His Jockness spouts off in such highfalutin' lingo. Does the Great High Jockstrap consider the Olympics' importance in terms of valor, or just marketing dollars? He certainly can't be meaning size, for as a recent study on penis length proved, the homos happen to be bigger.

Yes, it all comes down to size, doesn't it? The fact is, the Gay Olympic Games in New York outsized the Atlanta Olympics by several thousand participants. We had more events than the Atlanta Games.

Think about it.

Oh, I know, half of you are saying, yeah, but we weren't as good. True, I wouldn't want to face off against Dennis Hall on the mat, even if he is 30 pounds lighter than me. He could still flip me faster than I could blink.

But the point is that we did it. We participated on a wide scale. No, not everybody was a world-class athlete. Yes, everybody gets a medal of some sort. It's compensation of the utmost.

But the fact that our events are

larger, and more diverse, will be slighted, because we have traditionally been spit on and beaten around for too long.

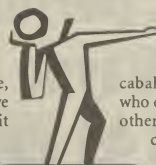
Which is why things should change. One great step is the globalization of Gay Games. Amsterdam is just eight months away, and many dear readers are discounting the merits of this event as a mere tourist attraction. I myself doubted the ability of such a fairly small city to accommodate such a massive event. Imagine *Gulliver's Travels*. We, the lumbering Americans, invade the small town of Lilliput, only to wreak havoc on the townspeople by forcing our customs on them, and eating enormous quantities of food, as well.

But such is not the case. As a personal test case, I registered only recently, but received all receipts of my participation. Funny how a little piece of paper can make one feel so official.

It would appear the Amsterdam folk have their act together, and while that is cause for disappointment among the cynical ranks, it is cause for excitement among the idealists and the hopeful.

The decision earlier this month by the Federation of Gay Games to take the bid of Sydney, Australia in hosting the 2002 Gay Games only furthers this globalism. We are essentially handing off the torch of queer athleticism to circumnavigate the planet. One important aspect of this may be that, for the next two go-rounds, other continents may show us up in diversity, in showmanship, and in gay-friendly publicity. Yes, we, the originators of Gay Games, may be bested.

Comparatively, many other countries have a better record of queer rights. We don't hear about this much, and the rest of the country hears even less, because of our mainstream media's bias and preference toward BS, like touching stories about ducks trapped in wells, or infotainment about the increasingly shrinking



Sports Complex

cabal of soulless celebrities who divorce and behead each other, only to crowd the increasingly limited book market with distorted autobiographical tomes. I cannot count the number of times some associate or fan

has repeated the worn phrase, after reading one of my fictional stories, "So, did this really happen?" As if reality were the only virtue of writing.

There was some sentiment in a Southern newspaper that Gay Games should be "brought back" to America, as if it were lent out to Amsterdam like a sweater. The concept of Gay Games is not about ownership, although such possessive comments would lead one to believe it.

I'm sure the organizers of the Dallas bid were very heartfelt and qualified in their efforts. Combined with the regional individuality, some very Western events could have added to the unique spirit of the region, say the gun rack pick-up truck homo shoot!

Wisecracks aside, Dallas still has more anti-gay laws and homophobia of a violent sort than many other metropolises. This served as a major deterrent to Dallas getting the bid. Sydney had also been gunning for the privilege of hosting Gay Games three previous times. Like Oscars given out to elderly actors for mere cameos, it was also a sympathy vote.

Sydney, while no Mecca of gay rights, has consistently outdone the US in AIDS prevention and gay events. Their Mardi Gras is way bigger than our largest gay pride event. The affable culture seems to welcome queerness, perhaps as a sort of defiance against its stuffy English history.

So remember, we're bigger than the Olympics, and getting even bigger come the next century. I guess that makes us bigger than the Olympics, which makes us bigger than the Catholic religion.

I'll be subletting the Basilica on a first-come, first-served basis. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunshine

◀ page 1

when these agencies receive money through the city, citizens should have similar rights of openness and access as they do to city agencies."

Many AIDS activists were heartened by Ammiano's resolution. Having been repeatedly frustrated in dealing with insular, at times secretive nonprofit service organizations, for them it's a little like Ammiano is proposing to cut through the Dark Ages of Feudalism to arrive at the light of a healthcare Renaissance.

Activists have long complained that several large AIDS service organizations, most notably the San Francisco AIDS Foundation

(SFAF), make decisions that affect hundreds or thousands of people's lives, yet remain essentially unaccountable to anyone for their decisions.

"Many nonprofits, especially AIDS nonprofits, provide essentially government services, funded with government money," said Jeff Sheehy, president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Democratic Club. "They therefore should operate according to the democratic principles of openness, access, and due process."

The draft resolution released by Ammiano's office also calls for the San Francisco Department of Public Health to draft a due process procedure to be followed by any city-funded nonprofit agency before it denies services to

any eligible client. This proposed action is part of the fall-out that occurred when a partnership of three AIDS service organizations summarily denied services to a client after he upset them with his political activities.

Getting on board

A third part of the resolution calls for the city to find ways of encouraging city-funded nonprofit organizations to hold open elections for at least some of the seats on their boards of directors. At present, according to AIDS activist Hank Wilson, virtually all AIDS service organizations in San Francisco self-select their directors, effectively denying clients a direct say in who represents them.

"I was involved in the creation

of many of these organizations," said Wilson. "In the beginning, all the boards were open and were directly tied to the community. Now, I can't even get into the board meetings without great effort. When I get in, I am allowed to stay only during the most generic presentations and am asked to leave before any substantive discussion takes place."

Although Ammiano refrained from singling out any nonprofit organization for direct criticism, activists had let him know they were unhappy with the difficulty they have in gaining access to meetings of the SFAF board of directors. The organization requires those wishing to attend its board meetings to give at least 48 hours' notice, and to state their reasons

for wishing to attend. Activists also complain that they're not notified when board meetings are to take place, making such already-restrictive rules impossible to comply with.

San Francisco AIDS Foundation spokesperson Derek Gordon, derided the proposal as a measure that would "only invite bureaucracy." He told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "My sense is people are interested in containing bureaucracy, and I think this measure will just frustrate those efforts."

Also, he said, "We are, at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, focused on ending the pandemic and its suffering."

"We don't think this kind of activity moves us toward those goals." ▼

Guerneville

◀ page 1

We did 76 the second year, and 135 the next year, and last year we did nearly 500 turkeys.

"We try to provide anybody who is in need of food a Thanksgiving dinner. It's a community effort. And 100 percent of every donation goes to buying food. There is no overhead. I buy the food myself. Also, several of the bars are going to be putting on Thanksgiving dinners free of charge."

Russian River area bars participating in the turkey roundup are The Bull Pen, River Business, Rainbow Cattle Company, Triple R, Molly Brown's, and the Pink Elephant in Monte Rio. Some of

the businesses in Guerneville have chipped in as well: Great River Properties, Prudential Real Estate, and Up The River have given donations, and Terry, the manager at the Guerneville Safeway, has cut a price deal for the cause.

Carolyn Klinepeter, volunteer/foodbank coordinator for the Diablo Valley AIDS Food Bank, which provides weekly food bags for 200 clients in "all the communities in Contra Costa County from Discovery Bay to Richmond," said of the turkeys, "It's a real godsend, I tell you, because we can't afford to buy them. And Larry's working out delivery with our schedule so we don't have to store them, because, Lord knows, I don't have a place for 200 turkeys."

Ron Karp, executive director of

Food For Thought, the Sonoma County AIDS Food Bank that provides bags of food to 275 clients every month, told the *B.A.R.*, "We were never able to do much at Thanksgiving before, but now that Larry is putting together all this food, we are able to do a big thing at Thanksgiving now. It's really nice. Larry is amazingly generous with his time and energy."

Karp wants readers to know how difficult it is for people with HIV/AIDS, who may be feeling isolated. "For a lot of people, the holidays are a really hard time," he said. "They may be estranged or separated from their families, and sometimes they don't have a good network of friends. When you have someone like Larry who puts out this much love into the com-

munity, I think people really respond to it and it helps them get through a difficult time. It gives them a little bit of a boost. Having a generous amount of food or a turkey may encourage them to invite friends over or just be able to have a special meal to brighten up their holiday."

Karp also addressed an often-overlooked population, saying, "The one group that may not access our services the most are immigrants who may be afraid, if they are illegal immigrants, that they might get caught. We hope that everyone that's eligible knows we are here. We have one staff member, Erik, who is Spanish-speaking, and that is very helpful."

Karp would like to send the following message out to people

who do not have to think daily about HIV or AIDS: "Think about others who are not as fortunate. Volunteer and help out, send a donation, drop off a turkey, just remember how fortunate you are to not be in a situation where you don't have a good meal." ▼

To make a donation of food or cash, contact the Diablo Valley AIDS Food Bank at 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94520, (510) 686-3864; or Food For Thought at P.O. Box 1608, Forestville CA 95436, (707) 887-1647. Food For Thought also encourages people in need to contact them about their Christmas dinner event at Willowside Hall.

Censorship

◀ page 17

way to demystify penis power is to let people see it. It's flesh. As a small child, I was exposed to a penis in a sexually abusive situation that was very trying for me. But seeing it in photographs or on dolls is not traumatic. I feel much more threatened by a society where you can't talk about sex. If you can't talk about sex, you can't talk about sexual abuse."

Another woman pointed out that the forum was "a very white male, gay dominant forum. You're not really getting the 'community' thing at all. You're not just living in the Castro, you're living in America, with all kinds of people."

Where are the vaginas?

Another woman, who works at A Different Light Bookstore, decried the whole focus on penises, saying that a double standard was in effect at her workplace, which has become ground zero for the debate on censorship because of its recent display of a poster featuring porn star Aiden Shaw in all his naked splendor. She claimed that the store's management, while encouraging such phallic displays, disallows the display of vaginas, or even of imperfect specimens of manhood.

Not so, countered panelist Tommi Aviccoli Mecca, who helps manage the store. He said he once personally erected a vagina display at the store, and that the shop often displays images of older or less-than-godlike men in the buff.

Still, the point was well made that vaginas get short-shrift in the Castro, where penises predominate.

But the very focus on penises is part of the problem as several men saw it at the forum. One man, who lives in Noe Valley, summed up their position succinctly: "I'm a gay man, I'm very happy with myself, and I'm not

sex-negative. But the core of my personality is not my dick." That statement was greeted with enthusiastic applause, much of it coming even from those decrying censorship.

Another man took the point a step farther, wondering if what some people found offensive wasn't the display of dicks, but the commodification of gay sex. He said the Pierre et Gilles photo of Aiden Shaw might be great art, "but once corporate America gets the gay thing in their hands, we're really in trouble."

A man who volunteers at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, who moved to the city just a year ago, said he thinks gay men in the Castro neighborhood need to grow up. "When are we as a community going to mature out of this constant, endless phase we're in where this concentration on sex has to be so public and in-your-face? What I do is my business. I'll keep it in my bedroom. I don't need to parade down the street with my butt hanging out."

Such sentiments are anathema to Rebecca Weems, 40, an African-American transgender person who was raised by Southern Baptist parents in Tampa, Florida. She described growing up gay in a highly repressive atmosphere, and said her life-long struggle has been to beat back the forces of intolerance.

"We're going through the age of censorship," said Weems. "I'm not gonna let that happen to me. I was out there in the forefront of the community when police were bustin' us upside the head, just so I could be free to make love to who I want to. I'm not gonna let anyone stop me from doing that. No kind of censorship!"

On a similar, impassioned note, Sister Vicious Power Hungry Bitch, a founder of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, described the current backlash against penis imagery as similar to the hostility expressed toward the Sisters in

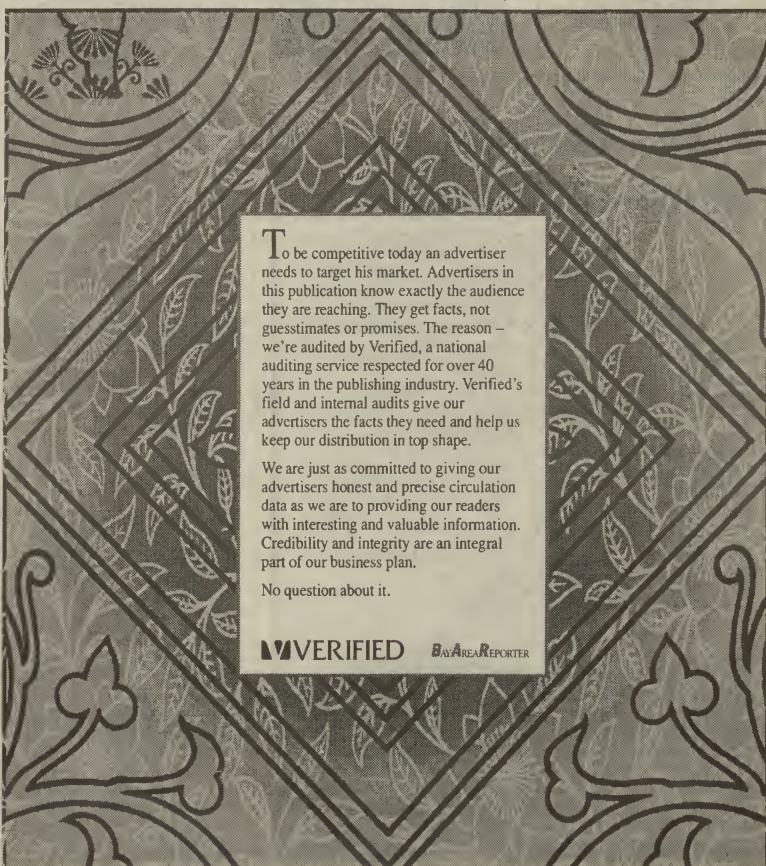
their early days.

"In the early '80s," said Sister Vicious (who wielded a microphone the whole evening and dominated much of the discussion with her brassy, sassy voice), "there was tremendous pressure in the Castro to censor the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. People said our drag, and especially our religious iconography, were impeding the progress of the gay

movement, and that the right wing would use it against us." Now, she crowed, the Sisters are glorified as heroes, and drag has gone mainstream. Implied in her comments were that outrageousness is a necessary defense against the oppressive values continually threatening to force gay men, lesbians, and transgender people back into the closet.

Toward the end of the evening,

before moderator Joan Jett-Blakk called the meeting to a close (it had gone overtime), one woman summed up nicely what seemed to be the Town Meeting's prevailing sentiment: "I'm glad I live in a neighborhood where people can talk about penises. I'm pretty uncomfortable with all the attention given to those amorphous children. I think they're being used to sanitize us." ▼



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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS STATE- MENT FILE NO. 0193281

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as CHRYSALIS CONSTR., located at 205 Randall St., San Francisco, CA 94131. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on February 13, 1995.

Name and address of registrant:
SIMONSEN JACK, 205 Randall St., San Francisco, CA 94131. This business was conducted by an individual.

Signed: Jack D. Simonsen.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on the date November 4, 1997 Nancy Alfaro, County Clerk-Recorder, by Keith Wong.
Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 991163

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of Judith Lynn Samuels for change of name. The application of Judith Lynn Samuels for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Judith Lynn Samuels has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Judith Samuels Kahan. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 22nd day of December, 1997, at 9:00 o'clock A.M., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of the Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated the 18th day of November, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 218651

The following person(s) are doing business as HANDS OF CREATION, 81 Pearl Laguna Niguel, CA 92677; Heather M. Aguilera, 81 Pearl, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677. Registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above fictitious business name or names on the date of October 22, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Heather Aguilera. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 22, 1997.
Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 218262

The following person(s) are doing business as BAYLINK TECHNOLOGIES, 241 Lafayette Circle, Suite #13, Lafayette, CA 94549; Peter Sevier, 241 Lafayette Circle, Suite #13, Lafayette, CA 94549. Wilmer

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The following person(s) are doing business as Market Street Club, 2340 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94114; James D. Green, 1850 Union St #1379, San Francisco, CA 94120. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed James A. Green. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 12, 1997.
Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 1, 8 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 218711

The following person(s) are doing business as Mike The Gardener, 1062 Oak St, San Francisco, CA 94117; Michael S. Roche, 1062 Oak St, San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above fictitious business name or names on the date of November 10, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Michael S. Roche. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 10, 1997.
Nov. 27, Dec. 1, 8, 15 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 218979

The following person(s) are doing business as Propaganda, 450 Ninth St, San Francisco, CA 94103; The London Antique, 450 Ninth St, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above fictitious business name or names on the date of April 1, 1997. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Tyreman. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 24, 1997.
Nov. 27, Dec. 1, 8, 15 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 218642

The following person(s) are doing business as TRESORTECH, 1050 North Point, Apt. 1207A, San Francisco, CA 94109; Dr. Gergely Vasony, 1050 North Point, Apt. 1207A, San Francisco, CA 94109. This business is conducted by a limited liability company. Signed Dr. Gergely Vasony. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 6, 1997.
Nov. 13, 20, 27, Dec. 1 1997.

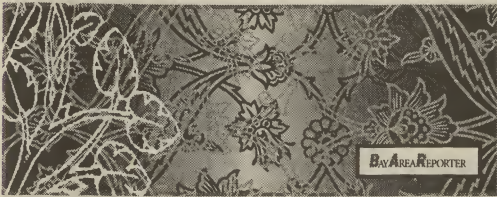
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 218601

The following person(s) are doing business as CONSIDER IT DONE PRODUCTIONS, 356 12th Avenue #5, San Francisco, CA 94115; Denis S. Galavan, 356 12th Avenue #5, San Francisco, CA 94115. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Denis Galavan. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on November 5, 1997.
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The stars of SFO's 'Eugene Onegin' aren't on the stage; Peter G. Davis' new book assesses the state of opera today.

page 38, 40

'Shooting Porn' is the insider's unvarnished view of the porn industry.

page 37



Lips' anal fissure isn't about to put the brakes on her big 75th blow-out.

page 45



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 48 • 27 November 1997

Back to basics

Weslia Whitfield emphasizes truth, not glitz, in her art

by Stacey Kors

Upon first meeting, Weslia Whitfield appears quiet, almost shy. Dressed in faded jeans and a pale gray sweater that emphasizes her close-cropped, graying hair, the 50-year-old singer politely asks if it would be all right for her to crochet while we talk. The tape recorder probably shouldn't be too far away, she adds, since she has a soft speaking voice and it might not register. Though she may be soft-spoken, Whitfield can be quite outspoken in her opinions.

"I hate the word cabaret — I do. It's come to mean overblown crap that has nothing to do with the music," Whitfield drops her crochet needles into her lap. "When I look at the lyrics of a song," she continues, "I try to find something that's telling me a truth and isn't some overwrought, over-romanticized thing, which unfortunately is very much in vogue today. When I go back to the music of the '30s and '40s — Rodgers and Hart, Harold Arlen, Irving Berlin — it's not for nostalgia sake, because for me those songs tell the truth. Therefore, I know they will speak to my audience."

Speak they do. During a recent performance at the York Hotel's Plush Room, where Whitfield is appearing through December 31, audience members could be heard murmuring their approval at an unexpected turn of phrase or a note brilliantly sung. "Jeepers, Creepers," "Just One of Those Things," and "Let's Fall in Love" may all be cabaret-lounge standards, but Whitfield's honest, expressive interpretations — which opt for vocal understatement instead of histrionics — combined with some rather unusual phrasings and tempos, somehow make these familiar tunes sound new.

Whitfield has garnered rave reviews coast-to-coast. She appears regularly at New York's renowned Algonquin Hotel — where her shows attract such celebrities as Eartha Kitt, Tony Bennett, and Liza Minnelli — and has performed at Carnegie Hall, the London Palladium, and the White House. She recently was profiled in *People* magazine, and is currently the subject of a documentary that may be sold to PBS. Her tenth album, *My Shining Hour: The Songs of Harold Arlen*, is due out in January. But ask her about the beginnings of her career and Whitfield laughs.

"I'm sorry. I always find that

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Marc Geller

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PHOTOGRAPHY

The boys of summer

by Chris Culwell

Straight Boys, Photographs by Steven Underhill; Bruno Gmünder, \$39.95

Photographer Steven Underhill has been awfully busy this year with his trusty camera, producing some of the finest erotic photography of his career. Though it didn't seem possible the Santa Rosa-based snapper could find specimens of male beauty more profound than those glimpsed in his various posters and calendars, *Straight Boys*, Underhill's first book of photographs, features several new faces that are likely to win the photographer many new fans. Oh, there are a few familiar mugs amongst these 96 black-and-white snaps, but Underhill always manages to put a fresh spin on even his most ubiquitous subjects.

Although the title of this collection is a bit baffling (since when do presumably heterosexual

his right hand rests just inside the top of his pants. Is he or isn't he about to pleasure himself? Not knowing suggests a whole range of intriguing narrative possibilities one doesn't normally encounter in erotica.

Equally captivating is a portrait of the dark-haired, dark-eyed Sal Martinovich, who leans casually against a wall, clad only in a pair of billowy shorts that perfectly complement his willowy frame. He throws the camera a smoldering gaze that, in its absence of emotional clues, is as mysterious as it is suggestive. Better yet is Underhill's captivating portrait of Tony Segura, a dead ringer for Rudy Valentino. Here, a bare-chested Segura looks away from the camera, at something we can't see but which is so pleasant it brings a playfully decadent smile to his perfectly shaped lips and a twinkle to his deliciously sweet eyes. This voyeur wants desperately to know the source of Tony's pleasure.

Of course, there are a couple

The unifying theme of this collection is a boys-of-summer number that captures the lazy sensuality of a hot summer day.

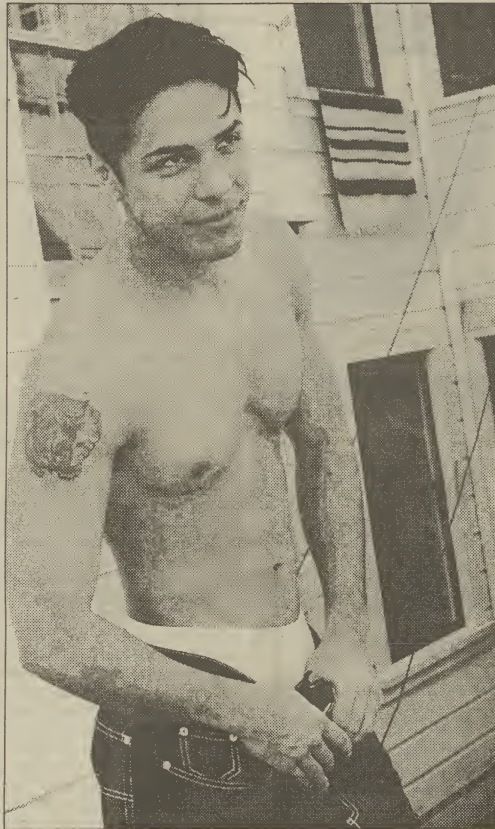
al boys tug with girlish glee at each other's underpants or exchange provocative, come-hither glances?), Underhill's book enchants with its unfussy admiration of beautiful young men in the prime of life. The theme holding this collection together is a boys-of-summer number, and the results effectively communicate the lazy sensuality of young men at play on a hot summer day. Here are two soulful-faced teens with a soccer ball, a sparkling set of blond twins wrestling in their skivvies, and a buck-naked beauty playing a guitar while seated on a fence, the curvaceous instrument in his hands mirroring the sensuality of his own exquisitely shaped legs and torso.

These photos are intensely erotic without being explicit or obvious. For example, Underhill's portrait of Enrique Roque is a side-long glance at a bare-chested lad with a back-pack strapped to his sturdy shoulders and back. Caught mid-reverie by the camera, this youthful squire contemplates something just outside the picture frame while a portion of

duds. If Underhill's best work is his most natural, his least captivating efforts are those encumbered with too many props or a preponderance of artificial glee. For instance, the portrait of Chi McClendon holding a rooster seems more surreal than sensual, and the snap of Patrick David washing his car, complete with dripping wet sponge and a bucket held rather too gingerly at mid-calf (certainly not very straight boy), suggests that less is always more. Likewise, two images in which studs frolic in a frat house-like setting seem stiff and out-of-place in this otherwise relaxed compilation.

Still, Underhill remains an artist with an unerring eye for finding male beauty in all its subtle and not-so-subtle varieties. Odd title aside, *Straight Boys* has a little something for every boy-loving girl and boy. ▼

Steven Underhill will discuss his work at A Different Light Bookstore on Tuesday, December 2 (7:30 p.m.). Call 431-0891 for information.



Tony Segura

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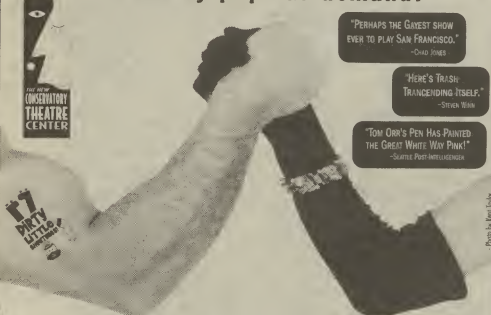
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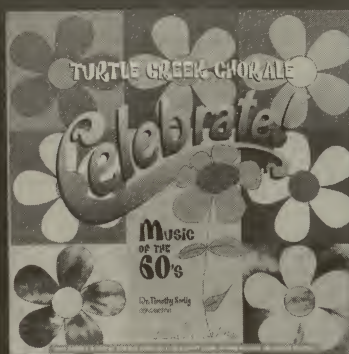
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Weslia Whitfield

◀ Arts cover

funny. Is this a 'career'?" she asks. "I was born in Santa Maria, California, a farming community just above Santa Barbara. And I left there two weeks after I graduated high school, because I knew that wasn't where I was meant to be." By age three, Whitfield already knew that she wanted to sing. "When I was growing up in the late-'40s, there was a singer on TV named Molly Bee, who'd come out on stage without shoes. I don't even remember what she sang; but I saw her and thought, 'That's what I'm gonna do.'"

With several years of piano and voice lessons under her belt, Whitfield went to Pasadena City College to study classical singing. "At that point," she recalls, "classical was it. Colleges didn't have jazz or pop programs." In 1968, Whitfield decided to come to San Francisco to attend SF State College. "Aside from it being such a marvelous city, the reason I wanted to come here was that there was an opera, so as soon as I graduated from San Francisco State, I joined the San Francisco Opera chorus and sang with them for four seasons."

But Whitfield soon realized that her musical interests lay outside the formal world of opera. "I found myself sneaking out to piano bars," she explains. "So I finally gave up the chorus and went from the 'highest' form of professional singing to the lowest — I became a singing cocktail waitress." For two years in the mid-'70s, Whitfield sang for other people's suppers on a boat called The Baywinds in Burlingame. From there, she moved to some small



Weslia Whitfield

local clubs. "At that point, there were all these little places where you could start out and be part of group of people who were performing. Slowly, I started building a mailing list and a following. And then I did some shows of my own. And that," she says, with a wry smile, "is how I began my fabulous, glamorous career."

'Gee whiz'

With the exception of a recent two-year stint in New York to help establish professional contacts, Whitfield has never dreamed of leaving San Francisco — even after the tragic incident that almost took her life. It was April 12, 1977, and Whitfield, then 29, had just finished an evening rehearsal in the Castro. As she approached her car, she was hit by a .22-caliber bullet, fired from a distance. The injury she sustained left her paralyzed from the waist down. Her assailants, two 12-year-old boys, were never apprehended.

Whitfield says she doesn't har-

bor any resentment towards the boys who shot her. What she does resent is the tendency of some people to focus solely on her disability. "No matter how good a musician I am or become, it's always qualified by the fact that I'm disabled. I find that infuriating." Whitfield refers to this as the "gee, whiz" mentality. "Every time there's a story about a disabled person doing something, it's always, 'Gee, whiz, look what they can do when they're so helpless.' The point is that maybe disabled people aren't so helpless after all."

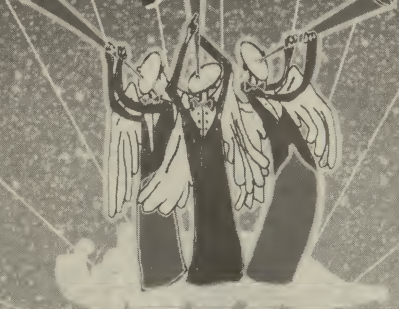
The singer, who was performing again only three months after the shooting, says it never crossed her mind to abandon her career. "Every disabled person I know went on doing whatever it was they were going to do. Only in a TV movie-of-the-week do they not do that. In the TV version, you get thrown into the water and sink like a stone. But I'm a great swimmer — I really am."

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Jizz babies

Ronnie Larsen's 'Shooting Porn'

by Robert Julian

You might as well buy a ticket, because this one isn't going to turn up on PBS. Ronnie Larsen's *Shooting Porn* is destined to be a favorite of gay boys — even those who don't rent porn. Larsen, who also wrote and directed the play *Making Porn*, seems to have developed something of an obsession for this topic. But *Shooting Porn* is not a film version of Larsen's play; it's a documentary — and a good one — that looks at the making of gay male porn flicks from the inside.

Larsen allows the actors, directors, reviewers and merchandisers of pornography to speak for themselves as his camera follows them from the initial filming in Los Angeles, through the promotion and marketing process, and into hallowed Las Vegas convention halls for an adult video awards ceremony. The featured porn stars are Blue Blake, Bryan Kidd, Adam Rom, Hunter Scott, Rip Stone and Adam Wilde. And yes, there are some hard-core action sequences, but the relentless eye of Bruce McCarthy's camera captures so much of the related production activity that the sexual liaisons are about as erotic as walking the dog.

The great thing about Larsen's work here is the objectivity he brings to his task. Nothing is glamorized and little is left out.

He gets the actors and directors to talk about all the taboo subjects, including salaries, porn stars as hookers, straight actors in gay porn, gay male strip clubs, HIV in the industry, and drugs on the set. The majordomos for this production are two porn directors, Gino Colbert and Chi Chi LaRue. The latter dresses as a male on the set of his films, but always shows up in drag for public appearances to avoid becoming, as LaRue puts it, "just the fat guy in the corner."

rocket science. And that is one of the brilliant qualities of *Shooting Porn*: it never delves too deep because, essentially, there is no there there. None of these guys missed a Mensa meeting in order to shoot that last reel.

The actors are a mixed bunch. Many seem dumb as posts, but a few, like Blue Blake, are shrewd manipulators who are going for the cash with a vengeance. Ronnie Larsen gives the colorful Chi Chi LaRue more camera time than

None of the guys in this film missed a Mensa meeting in order to shoot that last reel.

There are so many wonderful moments in this film, it's impossible to list them all. But among my favorites is the detailed demonstration of an actor's fleet enema before his close-up. The presence of porn critics David Widmer and Mickey Skee adds another dimension to Larsen's work, as the reviewers offer their observations on gay porn from a consumer's point of view. Skee speaks from behind a retail counter littered with dozens of dildos standing on end, framing his face like a pornographic version of those Casa Rosada microphones from *Evita*. None of the insights here penetrates much further than nine inches, but this isn't

most, and nothing pays off like his shot of the slack-jawed LaRue watching the actors on the video monitor and licking his lips. This unguarded moment is more personally revealing than any of LaRue's self-serving pontifications. But it is the other porn director, Gino Colbert, who takes the prize for gratuitous one-liners when he remarks, with pride, "I'm known for my toilet movies."

Shooting Porn is definitely an E-ticket ride. ▼

Shooting Porn plays the Castro Theatre November 26 through December 3.



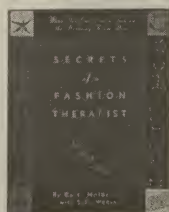
Ronnie Larsen and Blue Blake in *Shooting Porn*.



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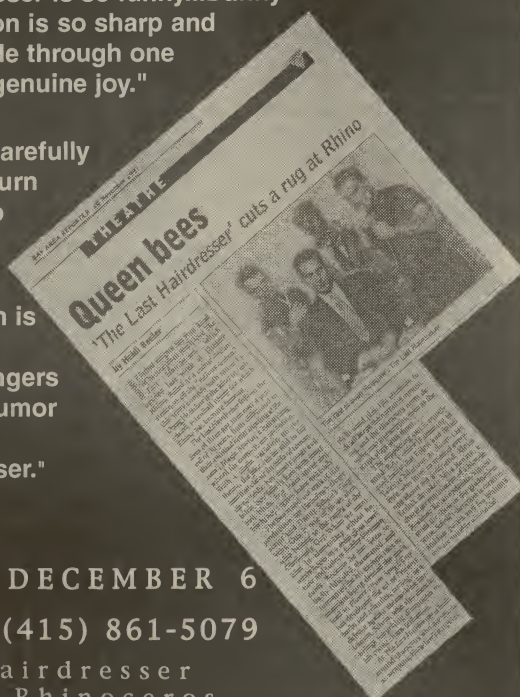
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Cold turkey

Temirkanov and SF Opera orchestra are the show in 'Eugene Onegin'

by Paul Thomason

Who would have thought it possible for an international opera company to give an almost passionless performance of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*? Yet that's what happened last week when the San Francisco Opera presented *Onegin* for the first time since 1986.

Much of the trouble stemmed from the fact that Yuri Temirkanov, making his U.S. opera debut, was wearing the dual hats of conductor and producer. As a conductor, Temirkanov is often astounding. I first became aware of him almost 20 years ago when I bought his brilliant

recording of Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony. It's still an LP I play two or three times a year. And there was much to admire in his musical performance last week. The SF Opera orchestra played superbly for him. The strings — especially the cellos — sounded especially rich. The horns were so meltingly lyric I almost cried, and the woodwinds, with the exception of a sour oboe, truly sang their solo lines. The total effect was so wonderfully Russian that one can only be filled with admiration that this is the same bunch that performs *Pelleas* and *William Tell* no less superbly on other evenings. Bravi tutti.

But while the orchestral inter-

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Pride Season

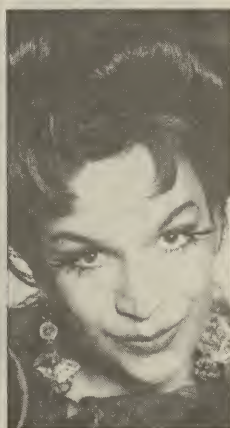


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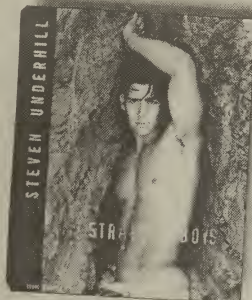
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Sighs and whispers

by Timothy Pfaff

The American Opera Singer by
Peter G. Davis, Doubleday, \$40

Old-timers will always complain that the vocal standards of their youth have deteriorated," writes Peter G. Davis in his new book *The American Opera Singer*. But the author, a former *New York Times* music critic who now writes for *New York* magazine, goes deeper than that cliché (his word) in examining a subject that has been central to his writing throughout his career.

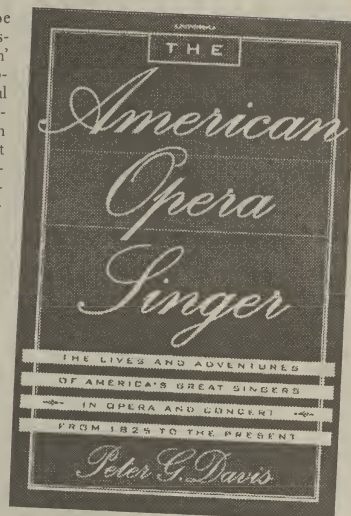
Over its 600 pages, Davis' deeply researched, carefully considered study provides a sturdy context in which to view the often bewildering, and increasingly dismaying, phenomenon that is international opera today. If Davis is less than sanguine in his prognosis, his sage diagnosis of the problems facing the art form — and his highly readable history of the American singers who have played an important role in it — arrives just in time to help make some sense of the often dispiriting opera season currently winding down at the War Memorial Opera House.

"The internationalization of American voices [has] continued as they secured a dominant role in keeping alive a magnificent repertory of opera and song from the past," Davis writes in his sober coda. "In the process, whatever special musical or vocal qualities

that could even be faintly labeled as distinctly 'American' have by now been absorbed into the global mix. What distinguishes American singers today is not their vocal individuality or creative fantasy but their craftsmanship and relentless industry."

In a chapter tellingly called "The End of the Adventure," Davis cites fellow critic Norman Lebrecht's assertion that "it would take a consulting laryngologist to distinguish between Carol Vaness and Cheryl Studer, Dawn Upshaw, and June Anderson, Deborah Voigt, and Susan Dunn," conceding Lebrecht's point but calling it "overstatement" and changing some of the names to protect the innocent. Davis counts Upshaw — along with Frederica von Stade, Lorraine Hunt, Sanford Sylvan, David Daniels, and others — among the "mavericks" for whom it is "more difficult than ever to make their way in a musical world that prizes conformity above all and, as a result, becomes increasingly homogenized."

Fans of today's various "superstars" are likely to read Davis' book backwards, heading directly



for his opinions on today's singers (Renée Fleming fans beware). But Davis' critical judgments, pithy and informed as they are, pale in comparison with the cumulative force of his book's overall argument. His absorbingly detailed accounts of the lives, careers, voices, and artistry of the singers that put America on the musical map, from the mid-19th century to the present, provide a frame for Davis' observations. His knowing assessments and appreciations of the giants of American singing — artists like Mary Garden, Enrico

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Caruso, Rosa Ponselle, Richard Tucker, George London, and Leontyne Price — do far more to put the likes of Aprile Millo and her fellow "careerists" in their place than any opinion could.

No one hungry for diva dirt will be disappointed by this book. Indeed, *The American Opera Singer* is rife with delicious anecdotes. A personal favorite is about big-voiced but opera-wary soprano Eileen Farrell, who, upon spotting conductor Thomas Schippers once in the pit, bellowed, "Ah, I see that Pipers is in the shit again." But more rewarding is Davis' balanced view of this uniquely gifted singer, whose mastery of jazz and other popular idioms could provide today's "crossover" singers with valuable lessons.

However unblinking its assessments of particular singers, *The American Opera Singer* exudes intellectual honesty, and, ultimately, fairness. A chapter entitled "Homemade Goods" expands on Davis' mid-'70s *Sunday Times* piece on Beverly Sills, a now-famous article that balanced its author's fond memories of the soprano's glory years with New York City Opera with his candid assessment of her compromised vocal state at the outset of her break into international stardom. The article, which earned him the awed admiration of colleagues and other dismayed witnesses of the "Bubbles" phenomenon, also won him the undying wrath of the upbeat diva of the talk shows.

Still, "Homemade Goods" goes into significant detail about what made Sills great. Writing of her triumph in the title role of Douglas Moore's *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, Davis recalls, "Her fresh, young lyric-coloratura soprano sounded ravishing ... in [music] tailor-made to display her remarkable breath control as well as her skill in sustaining long, arching lines and spun pianissimos. Sills, in fact, may have been the last American singer to find a role in a new opera that not only was popular with the public but also



Beverly Sills

effectively defined and flattered her entire vocal personality."

This trenchant, clear-eyed advocate of American singers earns the lament of his final pages: "As the traditional European performing styles gradually blended and disappeared, the rootlessness, directness, and practicality of the American approach to singing came to be professional assets. This chameleonlike ability to sing anything efficiently and plausibly became the true American style by the end of the 20th Century, and it dominated the international scene. Of course, there was a price to pay. As the art of singing became increasingly generalized, the new voices that practiced it inevitably tended to lack expressive flavor and character."

Hearing is believing, and Davis' compelling book makes one long to hear the evidence for his assertions. BMG Classics has obliged with a fascinating budget-priced, two-CD set, also called *The American Singer* (available on its RCA Red Seal label, 09026-68921-2). Selections range from the earliest recorded artists in Davis' book — Emma Eames, Louise Homer, and Geraldine Farrar — to several of today's biggest singing stars. ▼

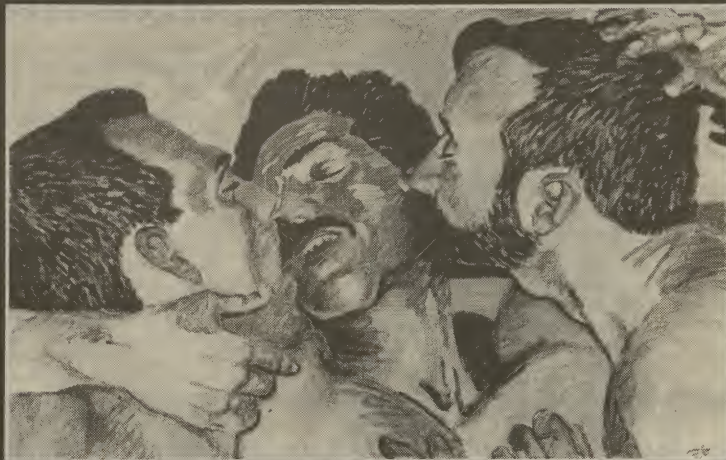


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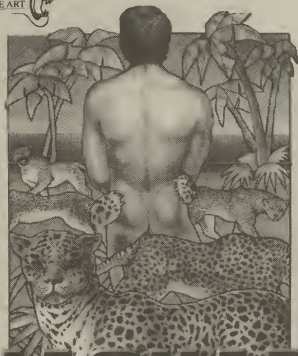
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Manna from Michael

by Deborah Peifer

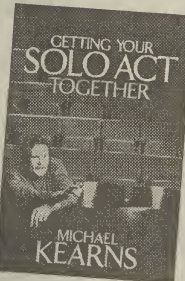
Getting Your Solo Act Together
by Michael Kearns; Heinemann,
\$12.95

In his first book, *T-Cells & Sympathy*, Michael Kearns collected his extraordinary monologues and established his expertise as a writer of solo plays. In the second, *Acting=Life*, Kearns offered lessons in acting and in living that stressed the necessity of achieving the authentic self. In the third book of his trilogy, *Getting Your Solo Act Together*, Kearns takes that most difficult theatrical effort, solo performance, and offers a thoughtful and detailed exploration of how to do it, and do it right. The result is both entertaining and practical.

I wish that every actor who, for reasons of megalomania or what-

ever, decides that the world needs to hear the true and lengthy story of her or his life, would first read this remarkable book. Kearns raises the questions that each actor must consider before setting off on a solo quest, chief among them, is your outlook sufficiently broad to universalize your story? "While 'write what you know' is sound advice for anyone involved in a literary endeavor," he warns, "it can be certain death for the solo writer-performer; unless, of course, one is able to contextualize his/her personal story in a way that makes it resound."

Kearns' advice is not all philosophical. He has practical methods to promote your own work and useful explanations for the necessity of that self-promotion. Using interviews with other solo performers, producers and critics such as Kate Bornstein, Dan



Kwong, Joan Lipkin, Tim Miller, and Rob Sullivan to round out his own observations, Kearns fashions a book that answers not only "how-to" but also, perhaps more importantly, "why should you?" The book ends with excerpts from the works of several performers that

clearly illustrate these artists know what they are talking about.

If you've never considered a solo career but have spent more than a few minutes as an audience member at such a performance, Kearns' new work will be especially helpful to you. This is a worthy finale to Kearns' theatrical trilogy. He has taken the experience and skill of many contemporary performers and wedded them to his own considerable talent. The result is a gift to actor and spectator alike. ▼

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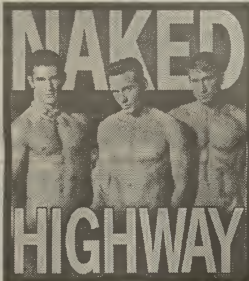
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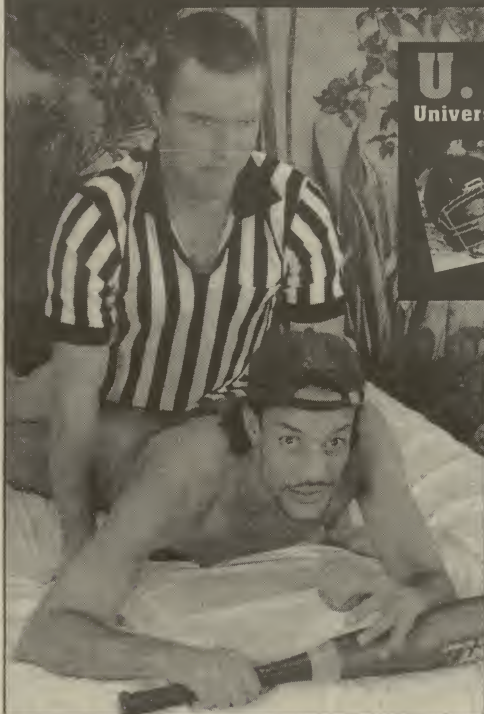
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MUSIC

Stansfield wows 'em

by Russ Nordmeyer

Lisa Stansfield is perhaps best known for her 1989 hit single "All Around the World," in which she, she, she couldn't find her baby. Like Cyndi Lauper, Stansfield's career seemed to be caught in the nostalgia zone, unable to break free of the time period her music helped define. Until now.

Stansfield's recent performance at Bimbo's, while not flawless, proved she is more than a one-trick pony. Entering the stage in a gold suit and sporting a 'do à la Demi Moore, Stansfield led her nine-piece band through an hour and 35-minute set, focusing mostly on material from her self-titled new CD, *Affection*. Stansfield's older songs, obviously more familiar to many in attendance (as was evident by the many sing-alongs), only provided a warm-up for the sassy and sultry newer material.

After opening with a jazzy rendition of "The Very Thought of You," Stansfield alternated between VH-1-tailored ballads like "All Woman" and "Picking Up the Pieces" to the old-school funk of "The Line" and Barry White's classic "Never, Never Gonna Give You Up."

On several songs, Stansfield seemed to strain a bit to hit the right note, but if her vocals were slightly worn, the predominantly gay male crowd didn't seem to mind. Stansfield ended her evening in San Francisco with, what else, the house mix of "People Hold On." That's our Lisa. ▼



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MUSIC

Eugene Onegin

◀ page 38

ludes in *Onegin* were spectacular, Temirkanov overindulged his singers. Time after time an aria almost ground to a halt. This lack of underlying tension or drama was reflected in Temirkanov's production, which was so emotionally inert it made one long for the routine SF Opera fare. Singers managed to sing duets without ever once looking at each other. Generally, they gave a good imitation of folks standing in line waiting to buy groceries. If one did not know the opera's story, one would never guess that any of the people on stage had any relationship with each other, much less that some of them were passionately in love.

Perhaps it was the deadly staging that affected the singers' voices? How else to explain why such sure-fire drama as Tatyana's letter scene, Lensky's great aria and, above all, the opera's riveting final scene all fell flat?

In her company debut, soprano Elena Prokina as Tatyana displayed some ravishing soft singing, but at louder volumes her voice spread unpleasantly. Her Tatyana was so recessive dramatically that it simply faded from the stage. In the title role, baritone Anthony Michaels-Moore was also a disappointing debut. Vocally, he was out of sorts, sounding like he was about to crack even in the middle of his voice. Perhaps that explains why his *Onegin* was so colorless. (What a shame the company went to all the trouble of importing such a lackluster *Onegin* when Alder Fellow Mel Ulrich gave a sensational performance of the role a couple of seasons ago at Opera San Jose and surely could have been pressed into

service on this occasion.)

Raymond Very's performances in *Harvey Milk* and *The Flying Dutchman* had augered well for his Lensky. Alas, those expectations were unfulfilled. His sweet, lyric tenor voice was afflicted with a pronounced vibrato in its middle and bottom range, and only once or twice did his top have the ping and focus that made him such a delight to hear on previous occasions. Wisely, Very did not shout and bellow. But neither did he come within a mile of being the dashing, romantic poet Lensky is supposed to be. Eric Halfonson's Prince Gremin was a disaster — blustery and coarsely sung. Why would Temirkanov allow the bass to break character by holding his aria's last note forever, like Baron Ochs at the end of Act II of *Der Rosenkavalier*? Ironically, the audience was thrilled with the inappropriate gesture, bursting into applause before the note ended. But then, the audience also applauded the decorative but rather shabby scenery by Igor Ivanov. These designs first appeared at St. Petersburg's Kirov Opera in 1982, but they look several decades older.

I kept wanting to like Mariana Tarasova's Olga, but the debut-ing mezzo sang too crudely to be really enjoyable in the role. Fortunately, Adler Fellow John Relyea was superb as both the Captain and Zaretsky, and Michel Sénéchal was stylish as Monsieur Triquet. ▼

Eugene Onegin continues at the War Memorial Opera House through December 7. For tickets (\$20 to \$140) and information, call (415) 864-3330.

Weslia Whitfield

◀ page 36

Did it ever concern Whitfield, who is carried on and off the stage by her husband and accompanist Mike Greensill, that she couldn't move around in her shows the way many other cabaret-style singers do? "Yes," she admits. "People were saying things like, 'Maybe you should just do recording and never go on stage,' or that I should wear a feather boa and sequins. And suddenly I realized how little of what I was doing had been apparent to the people who I thought saw it clearly, because I had always been very still — my focus has always been on the music. I'm doing exactly what I

was doing before. Hopefully, 20 years later, I'm doing it better."

The caliber of Whitfield's upcoming engagements would certainly attest to that. Along with appearances in the spring and summer at Carnegie Hall, Whitfield has been asked to sing in the Lincoln Center Jazz Festival's new series, *The Great American Popular Song*. Other singers on the roster include such legends as Rosemary Clooney and Tony Bennett. Yet although Whitfield performs at jazz festivals, she nonetheless doesn't think of herself as a jazz singer — at least in the contemporary sense of the word. "While cabaret sometimes goes to one extreme, the jazz community goes to the other. These days, jazz musicians wear all black; and they won't necessarily

even acknowledge that the audience is there! Seriously, I'm not a jazz musician. Coming from that classical aspect, I can't imagine becoming a jazz singer."

Such a statement begs an obvious question: If Whitfield doesn't identify with either the jazz or cabaret communities, then how does she categorize herself? "Me?" she answers softly, looking down at a line of crochets. "I'm just a singer." ▼

Weslia Whitfield performs *High Standards* at the Plush Room through December 7, and *The Songs of Harold Arlen* from December 10-31. Tickets are \$20 Wed., Thurs., & Sun, and \$25 Fri. and Sat. For reservations call 885-2800.

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SF bars up for LA leather awards

by Mister Marcus

On Saturday, Dec. 6, the annual Los Angeles Leather/Fetish Awards ceremony will take place starting at 2200 at the Faultline Bar. The event is a benefit for agencies that assist homeless persons in Los Angeles County. This year the ceremony will, for the first time, name inductees into the Los Angeles County Leather Hall of Fame in addition to the 25 awards that will be given out.

One of the categories is the Best Leather/Fetish Bar Outside LA, and the nominees are the San Francisco Eagle, the San Diego Eagle, Wolf's Den in Cathedral City and San Francisco's Daddy's Bar. At my deadline, it was not clear whether San Francisco representatives would be present.

In Los Angeles County, the nominees for Bar of the Year are The Spike, Faultline, Gauntlet II and Piston Bar of Long Beach. Tickets for the ceremony are only \$7 and available at the door. It should be a festive night in the City of the Angels. Good luck to all the nominees!

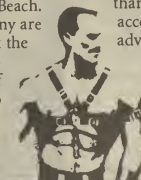
E-mail march

As you may already know, Monday, Dec. 1, is World AIDS Day. The AIDS Action Agency has devised an e-mail "march" on Washington. If you have a computer and are on-line, by all means go to the Internet and click in: www.AIDSAction.com and register your name so that the Congress and the President know we are still very much concerned



The new Mr. Maryland Leather '97 Jim Childress is headed for the International Mr. Leather competition next May.

about the inaction around AIDS legislation. You can do it anytime before Dec. 1 and on that same day as well. This is much easier than booking a flight, finding accommodations, being taken advantage of in cities you visit by money-hungry merchants, and long lines wherever you go. If you don't have a computer, go to a friend who does and have him/her register your name.



Bazaar

Homo on the range

Big doings at Daddy's on Wednesday night, Nov. 19, when the proprietor, Philip Turner, celebrated his 32nd birthday for the last time. Next year will be the first anniversary of his 33rd birthday! The bar was wall-to-wall with well-wishers, revelers and roustabouts. When I arrived,

Donna Sachet was gracing the stage and belting out memorable tunes geared to the occasion. The cake was great, and everyone was in a festive mood.

On Saturday afternoon, Nov. 22, the last of four fundraising beer busts to benefit Project Open Hand took place at Daddy's, with Leather Daddy XV Patrick Batt the designated host. The three preceding beer busts where 50/50 raffle tickets were sold culminated in a grand total of \$800. That dizzy "Robert" won half of it and plans to spend it all at Daddy's.

Solomon Rose opened the entertainment with a hip version of "Luck Be a Lady Tonight," which put everyone in an upbeat frame of mind. Nice turnout and a bonanza for Project Open Hand!

Later on that night at the Eagle, the Golden Gate Guards MC garnered a big crowd for their anniversary. A sumptuous buffet was enjoyed by all, not to mention a scrumptious cake. The ceremony included thanks to various people who helped the GGG in the past year, and then the new officers were announced. Andy Rose was re-elected president of the club; Sam Medrano is the vice president; Jason Fontaine was re-elected treasurer; the road captain is Jim Owens; and Lou Grasso was re-elected recording secretary. The corresponding secretary is Chris Konda. I will be in touch with him!

Dot dot dot dish

Not too many people noticed, but at Daddy Philip's birthday party on Wednesday, a (former) leather title holder arrived in full leather and (horrors!) white

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, Nov. 26-29

The DC-Eagle celebrates its 26th anniversary for three more days with a blackout/underwear party tonight, anniversary cocktail party on Friday and the Mr. DC-Eagle Contest on Saturday. If you're in the nation's capital, it's the only place to be! Congratulations to Mr. McHugh and the staff — and good luck to the winner of the title!

Weekend, Nov. 27-30

Mr. Leatherman Toronto contest in that fabulous city, with outgoing title holder Robert Tomas passing the sash on Saturday night at the Opera House. Hopefully, I'll have photos of the winner for you real soon.

Thursday, Nov. 27

It's Thanksgiving Day, and a fabulous buffet awaits you at 1700 at the Lone Star Saloon. The bar opens at noon and it's happy hour until 1900. While there, check out their new draft system guaranteeing you the coldest draft beer South of Market — plus five new premium brands! Way to go, Kevin!

Saturday, Nov. 29

Mr. Lone Star beer bust at the Lone Star Saloon, 1600-2000. Come on down and meet David Rapé, who is out there doing a great job with his title! Pegasus MOC's "Motorcycle Stuff 'n' Ride" Turkey Weekend day ride to Rio Vista via the East Bay hills and river delta. The ride leaves at 0930 from in front of the Castro Theatre. Be sure to have a full tank of gas, bridge toll and lunch money. Contact the Pegasus MOC by e-mailing to: PegasusMOC@rocketmail.com.

Monday, Dec. 1

It's World AIDS Day, and the 1998 Bare Chest Calendar men will be in a booth at Union Square signing — what else — calendars.

Lou Duff's Grey Hankie Social at Club Lex (3464 19th St.), 2000-2200. No cover, drink specials, bring rope. Call 550-0122 for more information.

Wednesday, Dec. 3

Leathermen's discussion group at 1930. The topic: "A Rubberman's Perspective on the Rubber Scene." Wear latex or leather to a SoMa location. For more info, call 626-3747.

Thursday, Dec. 4

Free and anonymous HIV testing at 933 Harrison, 2030-2230, upstairs. You really should take advantage of this service.

Wet & Wild Jockey Shorts Contest at Daddy's, 2000-2300, with lots of prizes, a beer bust and fun — as only Daddy's can provide.

Saturday, Dec. 6

The Ring & SF Leathernecks team up for a joint party tonight. The \$10 fee for both beginners and experienced players benefits the AEF. Doors open 2100-2230.

Preceding the party, a workshop conducted by The Ring at 1830 (\$5); no one is admitted late. Subject: "Fundamentals of Flogging." For more info on both groups: e-mail to: the_ring@ix.net.com. Sorry no phone or hot-line number!

In the land of swimming pools and movie stars, the Los Angeles Leather Fetish Community Awards at the Faultline, \$7, 2200. The SF Eagle and Daddy's are both nominated for Best Leather/Fetish Bar Outside Los Angeles.

The 1998 Bare Chest men travel to that fabulous new leather bar in Sacramento, The Bolt, to autograph and sell their calendars. Sales benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund and an AIDS agency in the capital. The action begins at 2100, so it should be a fun night. Even if you can't make it to this event, next time you're in Sacramento, be sure to drop in at The Bolt.

WHISKEY & SODA

It's my party!

by Sweet Lips

Yes, folks, the reports you've heard on *Hard Copy* and *Entertainment Tonight* are true! I will soon be celebrating my 75th birthday! I know that's a shock for those of you who've seen me in the flesh (so to speak), since I'm usually taken for half that, but nevertheless, the big day is just around the corner.

And what better way to mark my natal day than a stupendous bash at my home away from home, that Polkstrasse Institution, the Polk Rendezvous (1303 Polk at Bush). Effusive tributes will be paid to me by my many admirers on Sunday, November 30, 2-8 p.m. Kicking off this stellar extravaganza at the stroke of two will be the grand unveiling of the new photo wall (created by the gifted L. James), featuring my own up-close-and-personal memorabilia. From 3 to 4 p.m., indulge yourself with the 75¢ drink specials. *Of course*, I want presents! I didn't live three-quarters of a century *not* to get presents! And if you're too cheap to get me something nice, the least you can do is buy me a birthday cocktail! Name brands only!

As for the rumor that Nov. 30 will officially be declared Sweet Lips Day in our fair metropolis, I can only say that what's good enough for Mister Marcus is good enough for me! Perhaps the city

will present me with a citation – and this time it won't be for lewd and lascivious behavior!

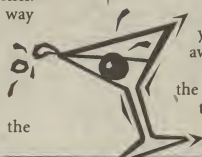
Before the big event, however, there are actually other things going on in Baghdad by the Bay. For instance, that bear *bolte*, the Lone Star Saloon, will be having a traditional Thanksgiving buffet on Turkey Day, starting at 5 p.m. The bar opens at noon, and happy hour runs to 7 p.m. Be sure to try the special stuffing (it ain't Stovetop) at your fave hirsute hide-away!

I'll be on the plank at the PR 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on the 27th, so do drop by for a Wild Turkey or two to get the holiday off to a good start!

Don't miss the fabulous Dee Harnell and Her Quintet at the swank Coconut Grove (1415 Van Ness) on Saturday, Nov. 29, 6-10 p.m. Swell sounds!

Birthday greetings to my fellow Sagittarians! My best wishes go out to that ever-popular B.A.R. political columnist Wayne "Insiders Say" Friday on the 26th, arts maven and B.A.R. editor Chris "He's Away From His Desk" Culwell on the 27th, and sexy techno wizard Ed Elhauge on the 28th. Also, Andy Rodriguez of Welcome Home Restaurant will be blowing out some candles as well!

The PR's monthly Last Friday Party is on the 28th, 5-8 p.m., \$1 off on all drinks, plus prizes, surprises and tasty tidbits to munch on! Come join host David "Campy" Kapp for all the festivities.



Cocktail Hour



Kiss me, Mary.

To those of you who've either called or faxed me, yes, The Swallow (1750 Polk) still has their jaunty jazz combo on Sunday afternoons. (Lips' tips: Get there early as the good seats go quickly.) Plus, check out the always jumping El Rio (3158 Mission) on the weekends. Sundays there are a real treat, and the crowd is a fascinating mix of all types and extremely friendly.

Monday, December 1, is World AIDS Day. The National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park invites you to attend a special program there, starting at 9:45 a.m. Please R.S.V.P. by calling 750-8340.

In addition, the AIDS Emergency Fund is holding its terrific annual fundraiser in Union Square on the 1st, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Every Penny Counts collectors urge you to dig in your sofas, drawers, behind your dressers and anywhere else you can think of for all that loose change lying about! Bring your piggy banks and overflowing mayo jars down to Union Square to help those with HIV/AIDS. Amazingly, the Every Penny Counts fund has so far raised over a million dollars for the AEF, and perhaps more importantly, 90 percent of the monies go directly to the clients.

A gracious greeting to Betty Beale and Annabel Barclay, visiting here from Colorado. They're, respectively, the mother and aunt of that hugely talented PR bartender, L. James. Enjoy your vacation, girls! ▼

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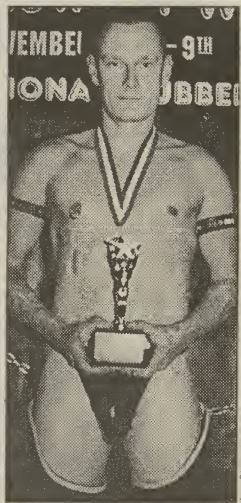
◀ previous page

sneakers! No name but this guy should know better!

Darryl Flick, Richmond, Virginia's answer to Don Rickles, did indeed dish prominent members of DC's leather community at the Mr. Maryland Leather contest two weeks ago. Of course he was in drag, which might account for his bitchy behavior. No wonder they're now calling him Rodney (as in Dangerfield)!

The disappearance of Mr. SF Leather Tom Powers has generated crank calls as to his whereabouts. One caller "swore" he saw Mr. P at Graceland; another said he was repairing fishing nets – or was that fishnets – in Newport, R.I.; and yet another swears he saw Tom in drag serving cocktails at a U.S. Marine pub in Ocean-side, Calif. Yeah, right!

Have a nice Thanksgiving, and give thanks that we have volunteers who will be serving up vittles for those less fortunate! ▼



Vern Stewart

The new International Mr. Rubber '97 Christoph Lehner (of Lexington, Ky.) was chosen at the Cell Block in Chicago Nov. 8.

announcing the opening reception of a
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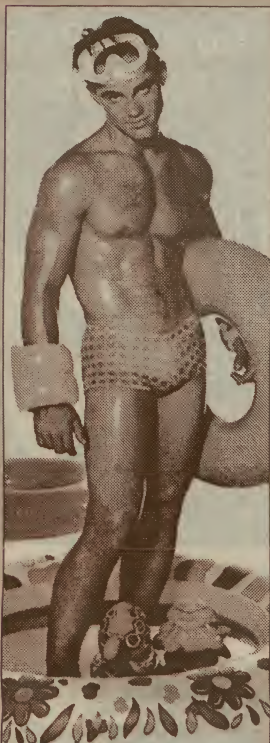
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



XY cover boy/alleged murderer

No thanks

Who doesn't have a Thanksgiving horror story? Giving the family patriarch or matriarch a coronary by coming home from college with a boyfriend instead of a girlfriend, or vice versa? No-holds-barred political slugfests with conservative cousins over the yams and cranberry sauce? Crazed at the family home-stead, snowed in at the airport, stuck in holiday traffic?

Still, every year we dutifully fly the red-eye cross-country to our nuclear family to attend the traditional glut-tony festival. Our boyfriend (the man who would be Thing) is perplexed. Why do we put ourselves through it? The answer is simple: participate in the family folderol, and we are officially Off the Hook for the rest of the nightmare Holiday Season. That's right, no compulsory Christmas, no have-to-do Hanukkah, no quality-time Kwanzaa. Even Thing has to make the obligatory December seasonal appearance at his family outpost in Vegas, but our agreement with our biological relatives is simple: do Thanksgiving, and take the rest of the year off.

So we'll show up and carve the turkey for the familial dinner party. It's not so bad, really. The worst part is the flight to and fro. Unfailingly, we get the seat wedged between monster businessmen. That's why this year, we're bringing our copy of XY, the issue with that cute alleged murderer on the cover, clad only in his skintight swimsuit. It's fun to leave homosexual propaganda propped open on the tray table to pages of alleged murderers frolicking with inner tubes. Thing wonders why we do it. We say: deal with this, turkeys of America! ▼



Karen Finley whips up something good in *The American Chestnut* at Theater Artaud. See Thursday.

Fri

Barbra by Halstead

The Christmas Show. Thurs.-Sun. at 8pm, Fri. & Sat. also 10pm thru 12/21. \$20. Hello Gorgeous, the Barbra Streisand Museum, 549 A Castro. 864-2678.

Christmas with the Crawfords

Artfull Circle Theatre's musical romp with Joan Crawford and her children Christina and Christopher stars Michael Cameron Benbrook, Flynn De Marco, Connie Champagne, more. Wed.-Sat. thru 1/3, call for times. \$15. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 621-5455.

Civil Sex

Brian Freeman's meditation on civil rights, masculinity, black gay history, and Bayard Rustin. Wed.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 3&7:30pm thru 11/30. \$18-22. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 641-0235.

Dirty Little Showtunes!

Tom Orr's comedy musical revue: Broadway standards turned naughty. Thru 2/1, call for times, prices. Tonight at 8pm. New Conservatory Theater, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Don Bachardy

Recent works by California artist, thru 11/30. Mulligan-Shanoski, 747 Post. 771-0663.

Final Girl

Reginald Lamar in a piece for solo voice. \$10. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm thru 11/30. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Freedom Songs and Field Hollers

Linda Tillery & the Cultural Heritage Choir, Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble perform. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. \$18. First Congregational Church, 27th & Harrison, Oakland. (510) 444-0323.

Hurlyburly

Pour Boys productions pre-

sents David Rabe's study of 1984 Hollywood. Fri.-Mon. at 8pm thru 12/22. \$18. Actors Theatre of SF, 533 Sutter. 567-6088.

John McGivern Live

Monologues: growing up gay in Milwaukee. Fridays at 10:30pm thru 1/9. \$15. City Cabaret, 450 Geary. 215-1001.

Mach One:

Facing the Millennium Movement Coalition for AIDS Awareness presents dancer Paul Timothy Diaz's portrayal of living with AIDS. Fri.-Mon. thru 12/1. \$6-12. Tonight at 8:30pm. Studio, Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Masters of Light:

"Dutch Painters from Utrecht in the Golden Age" 17th-century art exhibit. Thru 11/30. Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park. 863-3330.

More Than a Mouthful

Queer Culture TV features author Boze Hadleigh, filmmaker Martin Walz. 10pm. Cable Channel 53.

The Mythology of Angels

Butoh dance performance by Iona Pear Dance Theatre. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. \$20. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. 441-3687.

SF Games

Weekly board and card game group, free. 7pm. Cafe Commons, 3161 Mission. 679-3678.

Vampire Dreams

Suzi McKee Charnas's play: a vampire goes into therapy. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 12/6. \$10. Bindlestiff Studio, 185 6th St. 974-1167.

A View of Nature

Photographs by Donna Hagerty, thru 11/30. Derek Silva Community Gallery, 1594 Market. 553-8700.

You Goin' On About Sex?

Sizzling dyke performance, dance, spoken word by Jana Barber, Veronica C. Combs, Kebo Drew, more. Fri. & Sat.

at 8pm. \$10-15. Luna Sea Women's Perf. Proj., 2940 16th St. #216C. 863-2989.

Sat

An African American Antigone

Sophocles' tragedy, freely adapted by A Black Box Theatre. \$11. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 7:30pm thru 12/21. Bannam Place Theater, 50A Bannam. 775-4291.

Altars to Alter Egos

Artists Carolyn Castaño, Nao Bustamante, Hunter Reynolds discuss using alter egos in artmaking, free (but reserve tickets in advance). 6pm. Center for the Arts Screening Rm., 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Baby Judy's

Space-Age nightclub presents

The Puddy Tat Party, DJs Deena Davenport, Alvin a Go-Go. \$3. 10pm-2am. Stud, 9th & Harrison. 252-7883.

Crown Point Press Prints

Thirty-Five Years at Crown Point Press exhibit, thru 1/18. \$7. Palace of the Legion of Honor, 34th Ave. at Clement. 863-3330.

Crystal Fair

Crystals, minerals, jewelry, healing arts. Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., 10am-4pm. \$4. Conference Ctr., Fort Mason. 383-7837.

David Price Weldy

Recent paintings, miniatures; with paintings by Ashley Collins, thru 12/2. Bucheon Gallery, 355 Hayes. 863-2891.

The Last Hairdresser

Doug Holsclaw's comic deconstruction of the vicious queen, directed by Danny Scheie. Thru 12/6, call for times, dates and ticket prices. Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Pistol Star

Erotic art show includes Vince Gabrielly, Michael Manning, more. Fri. & Sat. thru 12/18. Raven Gallery, 2187 Market. 551-7940.

Saturday Night Gay Comedy

Gay comics Scott Capurro, Bob McIntyre, Karen Ripley perform. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Sun

Aftershock

After-hours dance party, DJ Phil B. \$15. 4am (following Sat. night) until Noon. 715 Harrison. 552-5900.

Bruce LaBruce

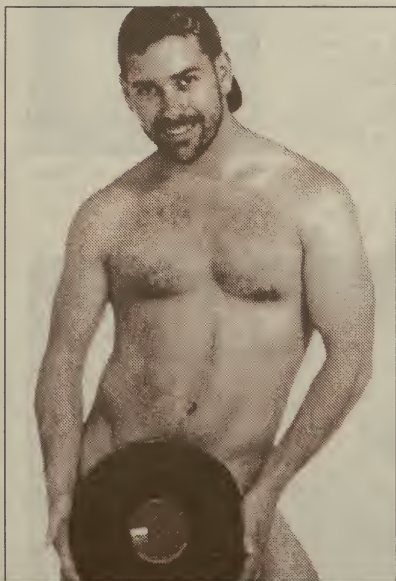
Reads from *Ride, Queer, Ride*, free. 3:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights

The Fifth Floor presents Gertrude Stein's visionary classic play. Thurs.-Sun. at 8pm thru 11/30. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-3311.

Dybbuk

A Traveling Jewish Theatre presents adaptation of the Yiddish classic. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 12/21. \$18-25. ATJT, 2800 Mariposa. 399-1809.



Tom Orr plays with his cast albums. *Dirty Little Showtunes* plays the New Conservatory Theater. See Friday.

Guys & Dolls

Frank Loesser's musical fable of Broadway. Sundays at 4pm thru 12/21. \$30, incl. hors d'oeuvres, champagne & dessert w/cast. Joe Sent Me Club, 603 Hayes #2. 252-8950.

Happenstance

Humorous tributes to those touched by HIV by High Risk Group, Tom Ammann, more. \$8. Doors 7pm, performances 7:30pm. Jon Sims Ctr. for Perf. Arts, 1519 Mission. 554-0402.

Home Heritage Cooking

Men of All Colors Together's brunch potluck; bring dish for 5 or more. 1pm. 2nd fl., Lone Star, 1354 Harrison. 675-0201.

I'm Just Saying

Madame President of Comedy Kate Clinton. Sun.-Tues. at 7:30pm. \$22.50 (Tues.: \$25-50, benefits Breast Cancer Fund). Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. (510) 339-1832.

Justin Chin

Performs works relating to AIDS. 2pm. Free with museum admission (\$7). Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Outlaws and Obsessions

Outsider films and videos by Kenneth Anger, Tom Rubnitz, more. Last day, Noon-5pm. Free with admission (\$5). Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

The Unreality of Being

Henry Darger's outsider art, last day. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Mon

Arlon

Erotic photography exhibit; reception tonight, 7pm. Thru Dec. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

Benefit Reading

World AIDS Day Benefit Reading & Concert to benefit Leland House features Robert Arriola, Brian Freeman, Joe Goode, more. \$7-12. 8pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-2787.

Brian Boitano

Olympic Gold Medalist signs copies of his book *Boitano's Edge: Inside the Real World of Figure Skating*, free. 4pm. A Clean, Well-Lighted Place for Books, 601 Van Ness. 441-6670.

Candlelight Vigil

World AIDS Day Candlelight Vigil for Needle Exchange, sponsored by ACT UP/East Bay, more. 5pm. Federal Bldg., 1301 Clay, Oakland. (510) 568-1680.

Gay Comedy Open Mic

MC Sabrina Matthews, up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Viscous Expectations

Color photographs and duratrans by Cara Judea Alhadeff, thru 12/31. 3rd fl., Veteran's Bldg., 401 Van Ness. 681-2624.

Tues

Abstractions

Exhibition of paintings, sculptures, collages, thru 12/14. Ortega Art, 440 Brannan. 974-6278.

The Black Triangle

Photographs by Josef Koudel-

The Fallen Grigori and the Fifth Heaven, a scene from Iona Pear Dance Theatre's *The Mythology of Angels* at the Cowell Theater. See Friday.



ka, thru 12/31. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

Endangered Species:

"Artists Examine Environmental Issues" exhibit includes William T. Wiley, Tom Marioni, more. Tues.-Sat. thru 1/31. Jernigan Wicker Fine Arts, 161 Natoma. 512-0335.

Gross Indecency:

"The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," Moisès Kaufman's play, opens. Tues.-Sun., call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$25-39. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

Henna Tattoos

Pamela Nichols discusses history of tattooing, free. 7pm. Amron Metaphysical Center, 2254 Van Ness. 775-0227.

L'Chaim!

"A Kiddush Cup Invitation-al," ritual drinking cups in many media, thru 2/8. \$5. Jewish Museum/SF, 121 Steuart. 543-8880.

Resurgence:

"Art with a Past" exhibition, work by Andrea Arroyo, Adam Kurtzman, more. Tues.-Sat. by appt. thru 12/20. ArtHaus, 1053 Bush, Suite 2. 922-8219.

Robert Beckmann

Exhibiting with Victor Cartagena, H. Alan Cheung. Tues.-Sat. thru 12/13. Terrain, 165 Jessie. 543-0656.

The Small Trades

Photographs by Irving Penn, with Nicholas Nixon: Bebe & Me, thru 12/24. Fraenkel Gallery, 49 Geary. 981-2661.

Steven Underhill

Signing his new photo book, *Straight Boys*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Up From Underground

Film screening and panel discussion with Craig Baldwin, Sarah Jacobson, Danny Plotnick. Free. Reception, 6pm; screening, 7pm. August Coppola Theatre, SFSU, 1600 Holloway. 338-6538.

Wed

Alaska Gold:

Life on the New Frontier exhibition: photographs and artifacts of the final frontier. Thru 1/3. \$3. California Historical Society Museum, 678 Mission. 357-1848, x 14.

Allan Gurganus

Author of *Plays Well With Others* interviewed onstage. \$16. 8pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. 392-4400.

Beach Blanket Babylon

Musical revue extravaganza, holiday performances. Call for times, tonight at 8pm. \$18-45. Club Fugazi, 678 Beach Blanket Babylon (formerly Green St.). 421-4222.

Bernard Maybeck

Drawings by SF radical romantic architect, thru 1/18. \$6. Berkeley Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft. (510) 642-0808.

Better

Group art exhibition that explores American obsession

with improvement. Wed.-Sat. thru 12/20. SF Art Commission Gallery, 401 Van Ness. 554-6080.

Bob Smith, Elvira Kurt

Two supercharged gay comics. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm thru 12/7. \$10. Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Carole Maso

Reads from *Auerole*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

A Christmas Carol

ACT presents the holiday play adapted from Dickens novel. Thru 12/28, call for times. Tonight at 7:30pm. \$14-51. Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

El Dia de los Muertos

Day of the Dead altars, thru 2/8. \$3. Mexican Museum, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-0404.

Great Moments...

"At the Opera House," exhibit of highlights in history of War Mem'l Opera House, thru 97, free. SF Perf. Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

Just Paper

Unframed works on paper by Katrien Maenhaut, Richard Ganci, more. Reception tonight, 5:30pm. Tues.-Sat. thru 12/23. SFMOMA Rental Gallery, Bldg. A, Fort Mason. 441-4777.

Masami Teraoka

Paintings that combine pop art and Japanese woodblock prints, addressing AIDS, sex-

uality, cultural identity. Wed.-Sun. thru 1/25. \$7. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Mostra 97

Six Italian-American Photographers exhibit, Wed.-Sun. thru 1/18. \$2. Museo ItaloAmericano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 673-2200.

Shrink

Juried exhibition features work by Northern California artists, thru 12/20. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. 863-2141.

Thur

The American Chestnut

Karen Finley unveils her latest performance work, opens tonight. Thurs.-Sun. at 8pm thru 12/14. \$12.50-20. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

Brothers of the Night

Co-editor Thomas Roche, contributor Kevin Murphy read from anthology of gay male vampire stories, free. 7:30pm. Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa. (510) 559-9184.

The Empress of Blues

The Junior Arts Council presents evening of jazz, tribute to Bessie Smith. \$45. 6:30pm. Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 34th Ave. & Clement. 750-7607.

The San Francisco Show

Photographs of the city by Paula Chamlee, Ken Miller, and Jerry Stoll. Opens tonight, runs thru 1/3. Scott Nichols Gallery, 49 Geary. 788-4641.

WANNA SUBMIT?

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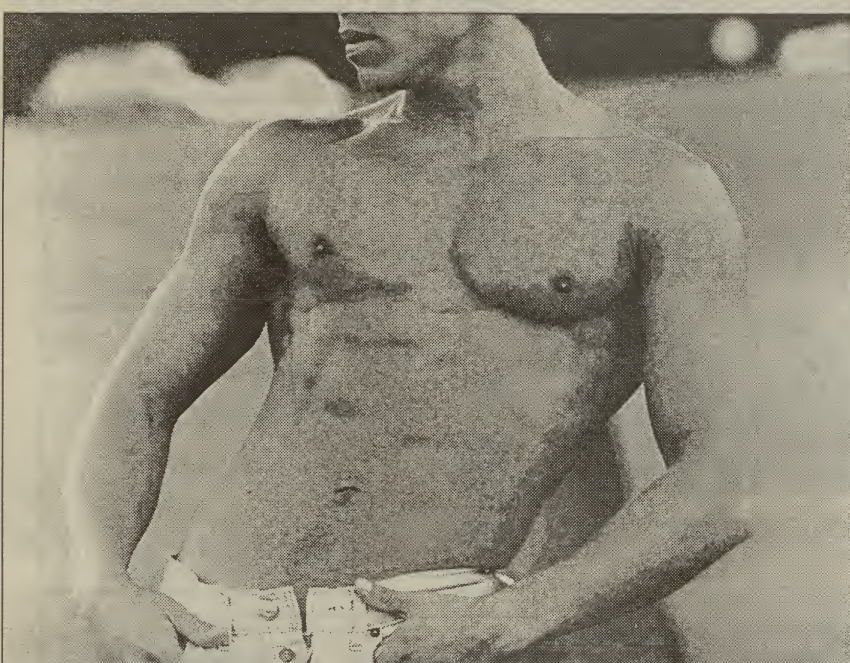
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Christmas with the Crawfords at 450 Geary Studio Theatre. See Friday.

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PARTING GLANCES

Superstar Oct 28

230 pm You: Blond with baseball cap. Me: Motorcycle helmet. Sorry, I had to leave for work. Want to try again? 8801

Tom - Please Call Again

2x wasn't enough! Please call again. L. 8802

World Gym Dreamboy...

You: saw-blond with scar on left temple, beautiful body, wonderful smile, sexy and nice. I'm 32yo LM, want to do coffee/dinner? 8803

Powerstation Oct 26

You: Army t-shirt. Me: Black t-shirt. That was hot! Let's do it again. 8804

EROS Halloween Night 2:30 AM

Your name is Jimmie. Want to meet again? 8805

Midnight Sun Nov. 1

You were with a friend. I was by myself. We exchanged glances & passed later on 18th. You: Short hair, sweater. Me: jeans and black shirt. I would like to meet you. Call if you want to. 8830

Land's End Sunday Nov 2

Me: purple speedos. You: tan shorts that you unzipped while sunbathing, exposing great fuzzy navel. You smiled as you left the beach and waved from the hill. I waved back. Wished we had talked. Call me. 8831

Castro - Halloween

Market Street - About 9:30 pm. You: Muscular, short dark hair. Me: Husky, short dark hair, glasses. We glanced back several times but were with others. Please call me. 8832

Hi/ween'97 Castro Faun w/Woody

Cowboy Mike liked Pan's tight pants. 'Bout fell prey to pipe - but got away. Hey, handsy rump-bumper. Pan wants a turn on you!!! 8833

SJ H/VAC Man From Buddies 11/1

This "nice guy" from Antioch wants to see you again (and again?) If not, I had a great time with you. Thanks you. 8834

Blonde at Suppenkuchen 10/30

I was having dinner with an elderly woman friend. You sat down at the end of our table and read newspaper by candlelight. I would love to connect. 8901

10/31 N Judah Train

You: tan shirt, blk jeans. We talked but I left w/ friends at the Safeway/Church stop. Me: blk jacket, blue jeans, 10:45pm. 8890

Folsom Fair Bare Chest Policeman

You: well-developed tanned body, great pecs, mustache, shiny black boots & leather breeches w/ white stripe, white helmet, sun glasses, often photographed. Have good enlarged photos to give you. 8904

After Meeting at Land's End

you raced ahead up the hill, waited in the parking lot, and then saluted as I (alas) drove by. Would like to meet again. 8905

11/7 J-Church 4:15 Friday

You, Asian, black shirt, head-phones, great eyes! Me, blonde, green & white striped sweatshirt. Loved your look. Liked the eye contact. Wanted to play more. Call! 8906

Jim, Midnight Sun, Oct. 24

I was one of the two English guys you talked to (shorter one, green jacket). I wish we'd swapped numbers. It'd be great to meet up again! 8907

Taco Bell/ Walnut Creek

Tues. Nov. 4th 1:00 P.M. You: very masculine man, with Harley Davidson motorcycle (blue). Me: handsome blonde wearing 50L's and black boots. You're my type. Please call. 8908

World Gym Lkr Rm Sun Nov 2

5 P.M. You: buzz cut blonde w/ purple spandex. Me: tall dark w/ tattoo. We exchanged smiles. Who are you? 8909

Midnight Sun Nov. 1

You were with a friend. I was by myself. We exchanged glances and passed later on 18th. You: short hair, sweater. Me: jeans and black shirt. I would like to meet you. Call if you want to. 8830

Rawhide Sat. Nov. 1

You: blonde, goatee, blue t-shirt, black jeans. Me: very nice guy but too shy. Harley Davidson t-shirt, horseshoe mustache. Saw you playing pool then dancing. Wow! Would love to hear from you, even if just to say hi. 8848

Berkeley Baths Wed Oct 22

It was fantastic, esp. when you fell asleep after. Let's be occasional Flirts! (Don't worry, it's only lust) Call me. "W." 8849

The Ice Storm

Nov. 1, 8pm. I swear I was not with my girlfriend. Call me for private key party...me with shorts. You with jeans/sweater. 8850

Caffe Luna Delice 11/2 12 Noon

You: dark hair, jeans, sandals (7eras); walked by then came in, started to say "hi"; we smiled. Me: initially sitting alone, then joined by friend. Would like to meet you. 8851

Greg From Alameda at the Eagle

Greg. We met at the Eagle on Sunday 11/2. I was with friends and we had to leave. I think you're a doll and would like to know you. I'm not a home wrecker. S 8852

Oct. 31st Mistic Mouse

Fantasia and you make my dreams come true. I would like to know you more. Your talk makes my dream. Min- 8853

Frank

We met at Daddy's - Had a great time - Please call - Larry 8905

Glen Park BART Sat. 11/8 5pm

You: up the escalator. Me: heading downtown. We looked, we waved. Should have missed my train. Let's talk, would like to hook up. 8941

Martuni's Fri 11/9 7:30PM

You: Dark hair, beautiful smile and eyes. We met as I was leaving with a friend. Do you want to meet again? Call me. Alan. 8943

Midnight Sun/NY Pizza Fri 11/7

You: tall, dark, salt/pepper hair in black. Me: tall blond dressed in blue jeans/jacket. Said hello at Sun and also when left NY Pizza. Would like to meet. 8944

Whoops! Deleted your message!

By accident. If you called the personal ad entitled "a gentleman and an animal" between Nov 10th and Nov 12th, please call back. I would like to answer your response. 9064

Embarcadero Muni 430pm 11/9

You: cute, glasses, white shirt, denim shirt, small briefcase. Me: white shirt, sportcoat, khakis, salt/pepper hair. I waved bye. Let's chat. 8945

Holy Hotlips! Halloween

Boy wonder seeking twin. Met you while taking pictures at Badlands and wound up in superhero embrace. Let's get together for some dynamic duo adventure! 9001

Matt-Met at Detour 11/8

Went to my place. I loved your arms and shaved areas. You said my skin was soft. Again? I don't have your number. Please call. Man with wife. 9003

Joshua? Muni Wed Nov 12

I got on at Civic Center, you got off at Castro. We smiled. Me: red hair, black jacket. You: J crew bag. Call me? 9004

Raymond-at Castro Station

Had a great time meeting you. Forgot to give you my phone number. Call if you want to get together again. Sid. 9006

Bingo-Saturdays-I did not call

Would like to call you! Not sure if you go with a friend or a partner? Would like to know you better. Me: caller. You needed N-31. Please call. 9007

BART Montgomery St. 11/12AM

We exchanged glances several times as you disembarked at Montgomery. You: young, black wavy hair, black jeans. Me: older, suit, briefcase. You: intriguing. Me: curious to learn who you are. 9008

Tracy at Powerhouse Mon 10/27

Had great time sucking you. You drew me away from others trying to join, saying you wanted only me. Asked if I there often. Let's meet where we can continue! 9009

7-11, 18th St., (Nov 16 1:30AM)

You: Germanic accent, nose ring, shaved head, furry chested wolf on bike. Me: I'm Richard. Met inside store. Kissed outside, I was with friends. You left. Must find you. 9050

Malitano concert on Wed. 11/12

My asian eyes met yours during intermission. Rear balcony--you 1st row me 3rd. Alward to say hi. Let's meet. Liked your contagious smile. 9051

The Bus That Couldn't

Saturday 11/8 Market & Van Ness. Finally got a #47 but it broke down, so we footed it. Ur hot! Get in touch. 8946

Chung Lei

Where are you? I wrote your phone # incorrectly. Desperately need you. Larry. 9052

Gumps Saturday 11/15

John, really nice meeting & talking. Wish I could have asked you for coffee & gotten to spend more time. Nice taste in glass. Bob 9002

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Tired Of Being Lonely

Would like to meet quality man for friendship leading to LTR. I'm Filipino, 37yo, HIV-Neg, drug & alcohol free. I'm also honest, sincere, humble. 8806

ISO Leather Regular Guy

You are nice guy, in shape, interests, masculine, like leather; my size, I'm 5'7", 150, attractive (others say), 43; friends, dating! 8807

No Reciprocation Required

Retired W/P/Male, 58, hirsute, husky and HIV-. Seeks married 8-9, no drugs, no smoke, HIV- Important. Easy Bay only. 8808

60s GWM Wants Friends & Sex!

East Bay GWM, NS, ND, HIV- 5'10", 155lbs, mid-60s, wants 40s to 60s GWM, GLM, GAM, for friendship, sex & fun. Call now for good times. 8809

Pooh Bear Meet Papa Bear

Remarkably firm outsized member in trim Germanic daddy with full white beard. You're hairy, mostly bottom, midlier, preferred. East Bay HIV+ healthy. 8810

Sweep Me Off My Feet

Goodlooking, hopeful romantic GAM, 28, 5'8", 47#, looking for LTR-minded, romantic GWM/GLM under 35, good hygiene, non-smoker, in shape, fun. Adventurous, varied interests, active/fed back, no fennies. 8811

Tall Goodlooking Guy ISO Mate

Me: firm lanky body, big thick one, mostly top, brainy, fun-loving, cool, many talents & interests. You: slim, well put together, passionate, inventive sexuality, clever mind, know how to give real love and receive it in return. 8910

Handsome 23yo Visionary

GWM NS 6', 165#, healthy HIV+ ISO serious responsible WM not into drugs 25-45 with sense of humor. I HONK for tall blonde/balding guys but not exclusively. 8911

Seeking GWM 38-45yrs

Attractive sincere honest humorous sexy. No fat. Only SF. ME: Japanese 5.6 #145 toys smooth. sexy. Enjoy movie, music, possible LTR. 8912

Seeking Cute Blonde

Me: cute latin 5'8", 150 lbs, br/br, affectionate, intelligent, not into scene. You: GWM 5'10"-6', proportionate weight, blonde, NS/ND, romantic, top. European a+. 8913

Let's Date

Romantic man, weight proportionate, vital and passionate seeks same. Age unimportant but be available for dating and possible LTR. 8914

Good Catch

Healthy HIV+ top, quick wit, strong personality, passionate and fantastically loyal, 5'8", 135 lbs, br/hazl, 45, Seeks Partner, HIV+ total bottom, square chin, 'stache, stocky build, intense character, submissive. 8915

Clean Cut Attractive

GWM 36, looks late 20's, 6'3", 170, in shape, works out, athletic, city life, adventurous, seeking other GWM 30-40, healthy, clean cut, attractive, career minded, friendship, possibly more. 8916

And It's You & Me In The...

Summertime, walking hand in hand down in the park, with a squeeze & a sigh & that twinkle in your eye...Me: WM, young, above avg. looks & mind, versatile, seeks same. 8917

Endowed and experienced black

man, 44, would enjoy physical relationship with husky hispanic men over 40. Mustache essential. satisfaction guaranteed for the right hombre. Take a chance, amigos. 8919

VEGETARIANS

22 y.o. GWM Hare Krishna looking for veggie man to keep me warm and make me laugh. Let's grow spiritually and explore sexuality. Dweej. 8920

ISO Leather Regular Guy

You are nice guy, inshape, interests, masculine, like leather; my size, I'm 5'7", 150, attractive (others say), 43; Friends, Dating! 8807

Help Wanted

Very Attractive boy with pretty face, employed student seeking LTR, good home, and assistance from handsome gentleman. Not lazy, just need help. Serious only please. 8869

Expert Cock sucker

Senior GWM, 5'7", 130#, begs to worship masc, verbal topper, over 40, wgt proportion. Cauc or Asian. 8854

Romantic Asian-Filipino Male

Sought by vintage Italian male for friendship, romantic interludes, cuddling, kissing, caressing, leading to that ultimate moment of truth. Travel companion to Miami Beach, Florida, March 1998. Accommodations gratis. 8855

san Diego Dude ISO Cockhounds

4 lossa hot cumy fun. Nice guy, homeowner. 6', 160#, 8y/br, balding, buzz, stach, goatee. Young Sean Connery type. Cum spend the weekend between my hairy legs, lost on hot hard Irish dick. Pisces. 8856

Attractive Latino

Goodlooking Latino, 32yo/o, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee. Like to go to movies, dancing, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37yo for friendship or more. Just call. 8948

Handsome Muscular Italian

GWM, 38, 6'2", 185lbs, into fitness, travel romance and quiet times. Seeks another HIV-, extremely well hung Latin man for monogamous relationship. 8616

Normal Seeks Normal

I've heard I'm good looking and have a nice bod. I am 6'2", 25, GWM, fun, HIV+, discovering self. I can read, talk, laugh and swim. Outdoorsy, sensual, waterboy. 8950

From Fuck To LTR

Handsome, masculine, WM, 35, 5'9", 165#, seeks good looking masculine under 45, well endowed top for sex & maybe more. 8835

I Want You!

Wanted one GWM bottom 48-55 yrs who wants more than a one night sexual healing. Offered: One G8M top, late 40's ISO ongoing bed partner or LTR. I'm affectionate, articulate and communicative. 8951

I Love A Man With A Mustache

Seeking a masculine, handsome, mustached, in-shape (body and mind), GWM, 28-43. No smoking/drugs please. I like music, sports, and down-to-earth, good-hearted guys. I'm a masculine, attractive professional, 35, 5'6", 143, in-shape, healthy HIV+, American born GAM. 8952

GAM in South Bay

Looking for someone in the bay area who is around his age (33), with similar interests (traveling, working out, making love...) to form relationship. 8953

ISO Affectionate Hairsuit Men

GLM 42, 6', 155lbs, moderately hairy ISO husky hairy man over 35 who enjoy kissing & affection. Prefer straight-cutting, blue collar not into gay scene. Facial hair A+, smokers OK. 8955

Sex Slave Wanted

GWM, 5'7", 140lbs, masculine top, NS, HIV-, safe. You: HIV+, totally obedient, under 40, 8/5, M/willing to give up all control. My agenda, my way. Will train. 8956

English Professional GWM

Seeks cute, clean-shaven other half. I'm 32, 5'10", slender. I like tea, beer, cinema, reading, conversation, eating out. Please call. Cheers. 9019

Seeking Serious LTR

6', 195lbs, 28, bi-racial W/B, handsome, enjoy outdoor activities, music, HIV-pos, healthy, financially stable, hard-working, versatile. Looking for LTR, 25-35, stable affectionate, honest, versatile, no drug, no fats, no fennies, Latino's +, but all are welcome. 8957

Genuine Soul, Quality Man, 38yo

GWM, active participant in life and love. Likes music, art, nature, food and travel. Diverse, sensual, truly handsome fit Ital. HIV+/very healthy. Dislikes scene. \$ secure. Seeks similar loving, nurturing man who can relate. 9010

Friendship Relationship Sincere

East Indian ISO open, meaningful, friendship/relationship with professional sincere guys close to my own age (30). I'm tall, well-built, extroverted and a high energy person looking for an uninhibited man with high libido. 9011

Looking for GWM

GAM looking for gdlyk GWM betw. 18 and 37. I'm 25yo, 5'6", 120 lbs, ctnshawn and versatile. Looking for fun times in and out of bed. 9012

Let me kiss your buns bare

Husky GWM, 52, ISO E Bay muscle guy who needs oral worship regularly. Uncut, hairy, married, ok. 9013

Passionate Lover Seeks Same

Me: 40ish, handsome, hung, good shape, affectionate top, great kisser, HIV, spiritual seeker. You: 30ish, good looking, slim, passionate about life (I hopefully me). Loves making love, honest and sincere. 9014

"Scene" Stealer

SGWM truly handsome, unique, nurturing, caring, sexy seeks nature-loving guy to share everything beautiful. You: SGWM 24-40yo/o, dark-hair/dark eyes, good-looking yet genuine, unaffected, open-minded, sensitive, willing to "get-to-know"! 8918

Straight WM 55 Seeks WM 65-70

Desire to be your on call cocksucker slave bring you to firm erection then lick/suck your balls while you jerk off/cum on my face. 9015

Warm and Cozy

Asian, 32, 5'9", 172#, attractive, smooth and muscular seeks well-built 25-40 for warm times together (affection, films, eat in/out) N/S, N/D. 9016

21st Century...

Neo-modern cool Aquarian 37, 5'10", 160#, br/br. Now scanning younger brothers for assimilation in the greater concord quadrant. 9017

Machismo-Mexican wanted

Professional GWM 30, good looking. Looking for good looking Mexican 20-30 years old. HIV- Friendship or more. Movies, dining out, call me. 9018

Floridian wants new beginning

in Bay area. Love LTR. Thanks, give me 100% humidity--no keds. Into bicycling, nylon/spandex, films, travel, cats, ballet/modern dance and men in tights! Genealogy, travel. AMA Professional GWM. 9020

Sensitive kinky bear cub

GWM, 27, 5'10", 240 lb, dark blonde, blue eyes. Warm, passionate, creative. Seeks top for role play, leather, WS, heavy nipple play and long cuddle sessions. LTR possible. 9021

Nice Guy seeks same

GWM, HIV+, 40, 5'10", 150lbs, has great friends and family, but without love I am nothing. Seeking GWM-next-door type who likes laughing, romance, life, love, and me. 9022

Cute bear seeks "boyish" pal

San Jose bear, 39, 5'9", 250, goatee, masculine, charismatic, seeks slimmer, younger, "boyish," HIV- bottom who lives nearby. I'm funny, warm, sweet, romantic, supportive and exceptionally intelligent. So are you. 9023

No attitude Please! Hot lookin'

Blond flattop and goatee 5'9" 140lbs, HIV- and wear jocks, levis, boots, uniforms, leather. Lite vanilla to heavy ranch. No point. Seeks ongoing partners and maybe LTR. 9053

Senior Citizen

Gives extra ordinary deep throat service to well endowed men. Bring your big stiff rod to a man who knows how to service it. #8816

Wanted: Regular Sex Buddy

Oversexed, masc. Italian GWM, 40, 6', 200#, hairy top in LTR. Sks hot GWM, 35-45, masc. bottom/wholly body, nice dick and flexible schedule. #8817

Seeking AM for hot times.

I love to orally service. Am hot 18-32, skinny/muscle, 5'9", and shorter, no facial hair. First times and b's are a (+) - man smells and scant ale +s. #8818

Bound, Black Bottom Wanted

You: Black bottom, on your knees, bound to my bed, then in my arms, kissable, lovable, fuckable. Looking for LTR, submissive but strong willed. Interested in exploration of the heart and mind. ME: Latin, young 40, handsome, stable, intelligent, needing you forever. #8819

All I Want...

Is to suck on your hot clean butt. Hot & horny Italian stud. 44, 6', 190, rugged build, goatee wants to lay you out & suck your butt. #8820

Hot cyclist Wanted

Me 32 GWM 6'2" 172 lb and masculine wants you GWM bike rider, with big legs and biker butt for some hot fun. Serious bike riders only. #8821

Aggressive Men

GWM, 45 with insatiable bottom seeks men to fuck me a long time. All races welcome. Ages 25-45 only. If you love sex please call! #8822

Let's Rub Boners

Squeeze and slide our swollen dickheads together. Bind our stiff wires together, make 'em swing and sway. Watch me shoot right on your big dong. Pump your load on to my hot peter. I'm 44, 5'9", 145#, bald, furry, goodlooking. #8823

Dad Sking Black Gang Bang 4 Boy

Mature GWM Dad seeks 3 or 4 black studs to fulfill his boy's gang bang fantasy. Boy is 31, slender, 6', 145# and handsome. #8824

Dad Seeks Musc BM

Generous, handsome, single 50ish Dad w/own home seeks safe, muscular BM top w/large cock for dining, movies, possible travel and fun. Bodybuilder types A+. Take a chance! #8836

White Boy Needs Latin Boy

Oral, versatile white boy 29 seeks short, uncult, hairless Latin boy under 30 for fun. #8837

Versatile Always Horny W Guy

5'9" 155# 33 Brunette, HIV-, good build seeking GWM, single, couple, 3 some, or more for hot fun sessions. Hot cum facial for me? Serious and under 40. #8838

Mature Daddy Or Master Avail

GWM, 74, 5'7", 165 seeks ongoing daddy-son or master-slave times with obedient under 45 boy. You are gay or bi-curious, trainable and prefer serving an older understanding man. #8839

Hot Young White Bottoms

Wanted by 53yo old white top. You: 21-35 good build tight hole smooth bodied. Me: 6'0" dark bm hair/eyes glasses, 155# 9" cock to fuck your ass! #8841

Total Bottom Man-Pussy

Fill my hot man-pussy. Fingers, toys, cock, fist. Sexy, smooth, tanned Filipino 35, 165# needs it bad. Easy 8ay #8843

Monster Nipples

Looking for huge tits, not just big ones. To be used for my pleasure by dominant leather muscle Dad in his 40's with great body and big beautiful meat. #8844

Big Tool Wanted

By straight-acting 27, 5'11", 180, horny Latino bottom. I will drain your load, suck and take it in both holes. #8845

Bad Boys Get Rough Butt

Spankings with hand, paddle or strap. I'm firm but fair. You know you need it. 6'2", 205, muscular, HIV-. All calls returned. All butts reddened. #8846

Show me the dick!

I've become a cock sucker not to appear on Oprah but to maximize your load(s), the only sensible reason to suck you off to begin with! #8921

Cocksucking explained:

Amateurs suck dick for the dick, the bigger the better. Pros suck dick for the load, ditty. The whole point in sucking a better dick is netting a bigger load. #8922

More suckers than suckees (SOB)

Would-be cocksuckers outnumber suckees, so a sucker's gotta be good: I'm captain-emeritus, U.S. Olympic cocksucking team! Big loads beat big dicks! Shoot me one! #8923

Need Hot J/O Buddy in So. Bay

Met daytime for discreet mutual J/O, I'm big uncult and love to have it played with. You too. Go for it! #8813

Top Asian

Asian, 28, 5'7", gym tone with thick dick wants to fuck you: GWM, under 40, beefy, muscular, HIV-. #8924

Cut the chase

I just wanna fuck! Handsome muscular hung versatile Italian deep throat deep ass seeks versatile in shape and hung guys. Let's fuck! #8926

Blow jobs for married men

and other trim, well-hung guys. Kick back for hot mouth action by older GWM, 5'10", 165#, HIV-. Teasing tongue takes your load. #8927

Dominant Italian top man

seeking a masculine submissive man able to take orders, versatile and available on regular basis. Smooth a plus. #8928

GWM seeks hung GBM

Attractive, 6'1", 25 year old bottom boy looking to meet 30 to 40ish hung black top, 3 ways welcome. #8929

Turned on by sexy bare feet

Friendly, adventurous, good-looking GWM seeks same into feet (and other body parts). 5'10", 150#, 48. You're younger, thew/erl prop, clean-shaven, trim, eager, HIV-. Will service you. Reciprocal optional. Let's play. #8930

Big men and dildos

Big GWM, 5'11", 245 lbs, big chest, hung, seeks other big and heavy-set men into sharing intense, mutual dildo pleasure. Discretion needed. #8931

Cute naughty boys!

Love to hold you down (lie you down?), pump your hot ass passionately while you moan and groan. Submissively to the will of this handsome Hawaiian hung with delicious chisled muscles. #8932

Deep throat wanted

Well-endowed uncult BM ISO talented mouth for frequent get-togethers in the city at your place. Older and experienced welcomed. Help me relieve the stress. #8933

Straight has cum face fantasy

You call, I come over, you jerk off inches from my face exploding your load on my face wiping your dick clean on dry part. Repeat shooters especially welcome. #8934

Free massage for young studs

GWM, 39, 6', 165 lbs, 8'1H, HIV+ bottom, half-Italian/half-German, ex-massage therapist wants to rub lean white hot tops under forty right away. #8935

Let's Rub Boners

Squeeze and slide our stiff swollen dickheads together. Bind our stiff wires together, make 'em swing and sway. Watch me shoot right on your big dong. Pump your load onto my hot peter. I'm 44, 345#, bald, furry, goodlooking. #8823

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Versatile Always Horny W Guy

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Mature Daddy Or Master Avail

GWM, 74, 5'7", 165 seeks ongoing daddy-son or master-slave times with obedient under 45 boy. You are gay or bi-curious, trainable, and prefer serving an older understanding man. #8839

Smooth Seeks Hairy

Cute guy 32 yo, Br/Gr, 5'9", 185lbs, muscular, smooth, HIV-, hung, uncult seeks big, hairy, hung, versatile guy for regular fun. Age, race, size unimportant. 8e hair, hung and HIV-. #8864

Daytime Oral Buddy

You suck me! I suck you! Mutual sucking. Choose one of the above. Role playing. 36, 6'1", blk/bwn, 210, HIV-pos, ISO Caucasian/Hispanic under 50 available during the day. #8862

Mutual Ass Exploration

Let's work over each other's butts with as little light spanking. Novices welcome. J/O suck finish. ME: attract, GWM, 46, 6'5" 250#, large build. You: attract, GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth/moderate bodyhair, slim buns. #8842

Prove me wrong

30, 5'11", 165, dark blonde, blue eyes, freckled, smooth, all-American looking, masculine top seeks insatiable head and possible rimming by masculine guys. No reciprocation, ongoing maybe. #8925

Fun Horny Bottom

Fuck buddies only. I'm masculine, 38, 5'7", 140, moustache, 8'rn/brn, good shape, beautiful butt for long sensual fucking. I love it face down. You: 25-40, good shape, 5'8". #8863

Sexy Asian Man

Needs to get pumped hard and often by GWM (21-35), Blondes, hairy, rugged a plus! I am 29, 5'11", 150, In-shape. #8857

Long-Haired Men Wanted

GLM 39, 6', 155 lbs. I'm looking for men with long hair who enjoy receiving total, sensual, slow oral service all over. All types and ages welcome. #8858

GWM Seeks Top Men of Color

Goodlooking GWM, 43, 5'10", 165#, HIV+, Romantic, looking for men of color for respectful, passionate, friendship, sex possible LTR. Blonde. #8859

Hot Daddy Seeks Hot Daddy

Long oral sex course. GWM 33 5'9", 155# Br/Brn Sexy HIV-. Seeking same under 40. Group sex, videos, photos ok. Other fantasies explored w/ right guys(s). #8861

Hugging Kissing Fondling Then?

Long oral sex course. GWM 33 5'9", 155# Br/Brn Sexy HIV-. Seeking same under 40. Group sex, videos, photos ok. Other fantasies explored w/ right guys(s). #8861

White Pussy Boy for Dom Black

GWM, 5'8", 145, hairy, goatee, stache wants to be pussy boy to black man! would be filled by a handsome goateed, inshape, 38 year old bottom top leave a description and a hot message. #8960

Latinos Wanted

BM, 6'1", 195lbs, hung 9", clean-shaven, muscular, masculine, seeking Latinos, Mexicans, Brazilians, Puerto Ricans, 18-30, masculine, smooth built, A+ but not mandatory. #8959

8 Big Inches Seeks Relief!

If you are a serious bottom who wants to be filled by a handsome goateed, inshape, 38 year old bottom top leave a description and a hot message. #8960

Berkeley Bi-Guy

Wm, 37, 6', 155#, br/bl, HIV-, handsome, buff, hung seeks curious/married guys for discrete, safe encounters in East Bay. Let's relax and get off. #8961

Hot Blowjob For Straight Males

Take your lunch break at my place near Dolores Park. Discreet and private. Kick back and enjoy: no reciprocation required. 10am to 4pm. #8962

Long hair or deadlocks?

Long-haired GWM, 30, thin, seeking guys with LONG hair for friendship and fun. Am really into long hair, nature, nudist, caddling. You: under 35, think, lots of hair. #8963

Slow Hand

Would you enjoy a slow, slick hand working, and pleasuring your root? If so, this GWM, 53, 5'9", 175 lbs, brn/blk, beard, HIV+, would be glad to oblige you. #8964

Sex Talk Nipple Play Foreplay

Gets me on my knees sucking your cock or on my back taking it. Safe sex slim built HIV- young to middle-aged. I am Wm 32 5'0", HIV-. #8965

Struggling YM Let's Meet

Great service and generosity for great looking young men under 30 with masculine body. 8y young healthy, attractive GM. Healthy buck and discreet. #8966

Gym Dad

GWM-ED Dad, 48, 6, 185, 44ch, 1A, 32 W, not perfect but inshape, shaved head. Wants bottom loving son. LTR or just play. Dad. #8967

Bottom's Up

Exotic butt play, who wants to fuck my butt? Need it bad, fuck my hot ass. Who loves to get fucked up the ass. #8968

I can suck start a Harley

Visiting Eurotrash model seeks sex, sex, and more sex. Hands, dick, feet, throat, butt, ears-I'll be all yours. There's nothing better than a trick who leaves you. #9025

Scottish Virgins

Two single friends-30ish-seeking fun on our first visit to SF Nov. 27-Dec 5. We're wild and wilder. Check out what's really under those kilts. #9026

Kick back!

GWM, 5'10", 160, br/bln clin. shaven. Lvs to suck and play with cock. You masculine, trim 18 to 25, GW/A or Hispanic. Let's have fun. #9027

Shower massage

Sensual and erotic hot water and soap massage for lean-bodied masculine young guys by masculine trim Wm 40. #9058

ISO Hot top(s) 55+

HIV- with playmate. 8'1", F/S, toys. Average looks and body ok. Smoke, drink, aromas, etc. a must. Me: 48, 6', bottom, round butt, deep throat, dildos and more. #9028

Happy Together

Smooth, full body oral sex, 5'9", waist 28. You: healthy, beautiful stud with lustful fantasy for Asian. Under 30, big, hard and discrete. Worship each other physical difference. Describe yourself. #9029

Let me service your big feet

GBM seeks WM to 45yrs, with big feet. Love to lick and suck clean white feet. Sit back and let me do you. No reciprocation. Your place, Oakland, East Bay. #9030

East Bay tough guys

GWM, 47, 5-10, 170, hairy, HIV-, wants horny raunch buddy in East bay for wrestling, boxing, piss and cum fights, fight for top. Your place preferred. #9031

Asian seeks Asian sex

5'11, 175#, 40, HIV-, seeks Asians, 5'7 and taller, HT/WT prop, 20's thru 30's, HIV- and more of a top for regular encounters. #9032

Hey boys with big toys and ears

WM 40s very masculine dominant top seeks a submissive bottom boy with a hairy hole, big dildos and a craving for heavy duty phone sex on a regular basis. #9034

Mouthwatering Butt

Muscular, masculine, mature GWM, serious gym goer, 5'6, 170#, intelligent, loves to take it deep and long. You be cool top 25-40, hung, masculine, fit, HIV-. Straight/bi ok. #9035

Just kick back

And let this horny, 44, Italian stud, 6, 190, goatee, suck your dick and eat out your butt. Fri & Sat nites in Castro 12-5am sex. #9036

Hairy top fist daddy

ISO experienced, insatiable bottom. 6'1, 45, proportionate, flexible schedule. Plus: younger, proportionate or bud build, bubbly, available. #9037

Randy granddaddy bear 57

seeks nasty hog with wheels to give me the run around. Low raw nekkid dirty runs, but don't see well enough to drive. #9038

Cocksucking Magic

talented SF silver haired fox has oral sex down to a fine art. Looking for GWM tall and handsome, well-endowed, HIV-, always horny, between 35-50. Blond/blue eyed a +. #9039

Sex buddy wanted

GWM, 5'11, hairy, 60-40 bottom, HIV+, UB GW/A, or BM, med hair, 60-40 top, HIV+, 45 and under, leather and kink and let's explore. #9040

Hung big

Hot 6', 37, 155lb, good-looking all-American collegiate-type w/ gym toned body. Hung big, versatile. Seeks good-looking guys for fun. Couples a plus. #9056

Oral Bottom Needs Affection

Long down-deep service for expressive hands-on man, safe, clean, drug free. Not into porn, scripts, approval, cockrings. I'm Wm, 53, 5'8", 180#, solid, bald, beard. LTR possible. #8969

Sukker 4 a pretty face!

VGL white boy ISO XXXX(remedy cute boy 4 best blowjob of your life. I'm 5'8", 140, b/bl, goatee w/ smooth bod, very oral. U be, all that. Unkut a+! #9057

Leather top ISO trim boy-slave

Wm, 40's, 6', 160#, will train very submissive boy in bondage, bootlicking and obedience. You will spend time hooded, gagged and plugged. Hairless and pierced a plus. #9059

Who will teach me?

GWM, 25, tall, slender, smooth, handsome, HIV-, wants to discover tender gay sex with a respectful 25-35 GWM. White collar a+. NS/ND. Serious only. #9033

Just shut up and ride

WM, 32, 5'10, 200#, blond/blue, muscle Wm, 40's, 6', 160#, will train very submissive boy in bondage, bootlicking and obedience. You will spend time hooded, gagged and plugged. Hairless and pierced a plus. #9060

Over-sexed bottom needs top!

47, 5'8", 130#, HIV+, well-hung 8" looking for hairy and hot top to fill my needs and fulfill my horny desire! #9061

Legendary black E. Bay topman

enjoys hot quickies with mature, masculine, non-bearded bottoms. All races welcome. Please no impossible-to-reach, never leave SF types! Husky men, Hispanics, moustache a+. Open up. #9024

FETISHES**Diapers?**

Were you diapered at night past the age of seven and still need a Daddy to accept this responsibility of keeping you dry in diapers and baby panties? Answer soon with a brief description of your bedwetting activities and punishment when you were young. Only true life situations are welcomed. This strict Daddy will baby you like you were before with the right amount of discipline as well. Only babies 35 or under need apply. #8825

Hot Long 69 Sessions

44yo HIV+ GWM nasty boy, small cut cock ISO fellow sex demon. For mutual sexual enslavement. Out of shape, overweight, smoke, drink, etc. all a plus. #8826

Medical Top Sought

By btm for medical scenes, cats, sounds, restraints, enemas, rubber and your fantasy. HIV-, NS, clean cut, mid 40. 5 8827

Need A Hot Rim

Hot guy 41, 5'11", 160#, in shape, seeks same, in shape guys under 45, with hot puckering hole, with lots of lip back there. #8828

Submissive Kid, 24

Athletic 5'8", 140, very attractive, student. Into bondage, spanking, humiliation. Please be in good shape, 18-35. Looking for someone to get inside my head. I'd top younger men. #8847

Daytime asshole eater!

Get your asshole eaten by a pro! #8936

Nipples

Young looking 50 year old healthy HIV+ dukes seeks mutual party-loving long-lasting nipple play. Could lead to your being fisted if interested, but mutual nipple play a must. All ages considered. HIV+ preferred. #8937

Attention Hugel Nipples!

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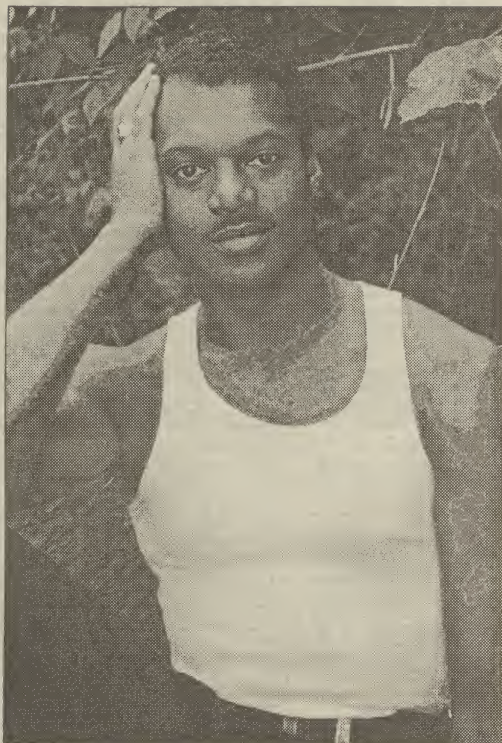
"Ere you diapered at night past

the age of seven and still need a daddy to accept this responsibility of keeping you dry in diapers and baby panties." Answer soon with a brief description of your

Dong with arms akimbo



Filmmaker Arthur Dong received one of two community service awards from CUAV (Community United Against Violence) at its annual reception honoring important members of the community. Dong received the award for his film *Licensed to Kill*, about men who have murdered homosexual men. Filmmaker Deborah Chasnoff was the recipient of the other award, for her important film *It's Elementary*. Also honored were the law firm Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe, the 1996 Halloween vendors, and CUAV client advocate Jennifer Rawkowski. ▼



Craig Hickman

Rhythms of a life

Craig Hickman's 'Portraits of a Black Queen'

by Richard Dodds

The boisterous mood that usually prevails at Josie's turned considerably more solemn one night last week as a small crowd watched Craig Hickman unveil his one-person show *Portraits of a Black Queen*.

The Boston-based solo artist has performed variations on this work at gay festivals and conferences around the country, and while there is often humor woven through it, Hickman's words are about more than getting a laugh. There is an aura of tempered anger and despair that flows through the 70-minute collection of monologues, riffs, and jangly poetry, though an overall artistic cohesion is less apparent.

But if the pieces don't build to an organic whole, individual moments and scenes prove vivid and intriguing. In one of the best scenes, Hickman takes on the persona of a nurse who is raising her sister's boy. As she comes to realize he is gay, she tries to remain tolerant, though deep down her acceptance is qualified by old prejudices. When her nephew brings home his new boyfriend, she tries to be welcoming until she recognizes the visitor as a recent patient suffering from the clap. She needs to protect her nephew, but must respect a patient's privacy. And what if her nephew had been the source of the STD? The evening ends in disaster.

In a scene like this, Hickman is able to create a world that draws us deeply into it. Even more vivid, though in a far different tone, is a segment obviously based on

Hickman's own early sexual experiences growing up in Milwaukee. Using heightened poetic imagery, he describes his ecstasy at being ravaged in the bushes in a park, a pleasure that gives way to resentment as he analyzes the racial dynamics of this popular cruising spot. Hickman ends this segment with an a cappella rendition of "Strange Fruit," Billie Holiday's bluesy metaphor about lynchings, which emerges as a heavy-handed coda that lessens the impact of the earlier moments.

In a similar vein, Hickman climbs into the mind of serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer, who majestically explains his taste for flesh and his preference for black victims. (Audiences may wonder how Dahmer worked his way into this evening, but though Hickman did not bring it up at Josie's, he told an interviewer several years ago that he once had sex with Dahmer. It could have provided a startling context for this strange segment.)

Not everything in this production is as bracing as the above moments. Hickman likes to play with the sounds and rhythms of words — at one point he raps on the "faggy femme fatales of fashion" — but there is a fine line between affected and effective in the well-worn form of beat poetry. And even the better pieces could be better structured.

Hickman, a young man of talent and sensitivity, needs to find a better way to assemble the best of what he does so that it becomes more than a start-and-stop collection of short pieces. When he is at his best, the results can be sublime. ▼

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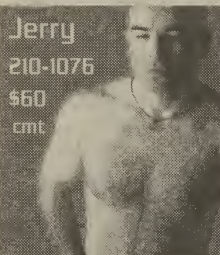
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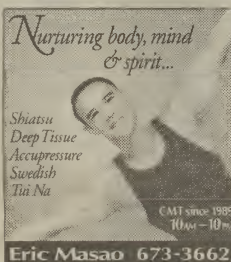
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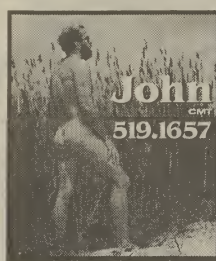
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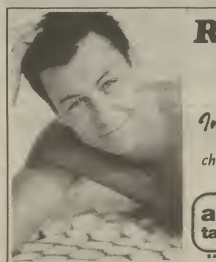
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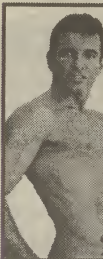
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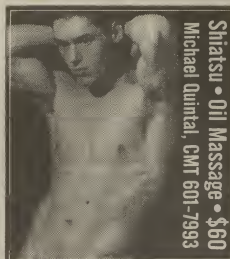
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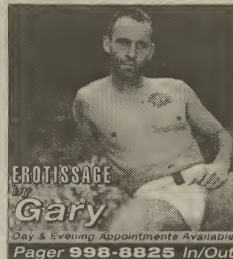
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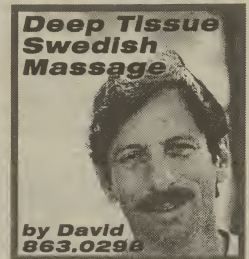
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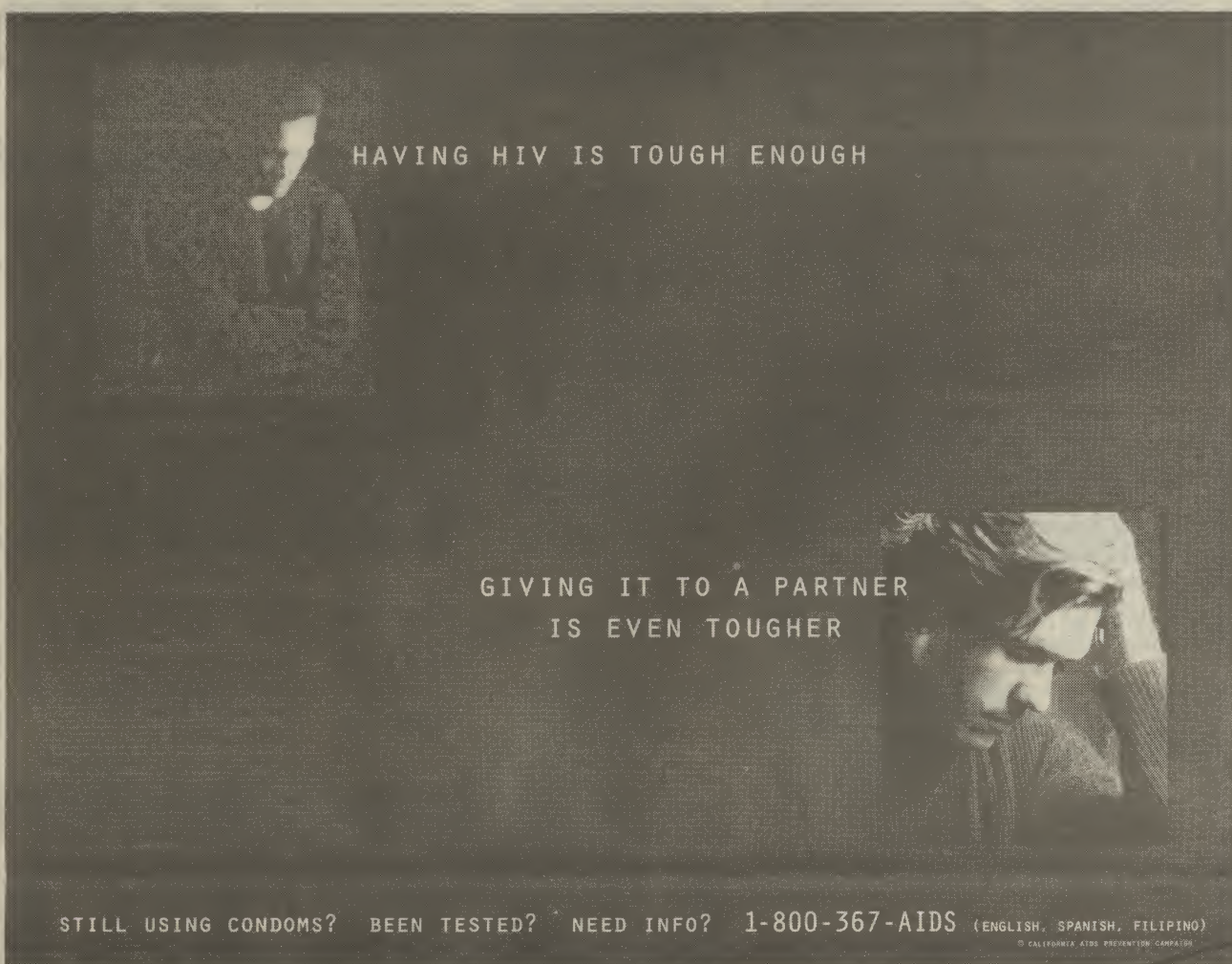
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19yr old WM 5'7" 120

Vertically erect

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brown hair, blue eyes, cleancut grad guy,

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Tall, lean, handsome 27 yo w/

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Long endurance. 764-6627

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100% BLACK TOP

PERSONALS

MODELS/ESCORTS

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Hairy Italian Bi-Dude gives best French when his lady is away. Safe Manly Escort to your Hotel/Home. Bay Area By Appt Even & Weekends.
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Very masculine
muscular and handsome
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TRIM, TONED, THICK, TOP, TAME
Thong-tan, smooth, cut, cute, 27, br/br
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Beginners welcome; advanced admired
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AUSSIE BOYS**DOUBLE TROUBLE**

or single. 19yrs WMS both great looking.
Mark blond smooth 5'10" 10" dick
Josh black hair toned 5'7" 7" dick
Say G'day to us
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Perfect butt & kink ready hands
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very sexy. Call Patrick for your plea-
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26yoHung10Xtall, masc, vryGdLkng

Avail.24-7 Tony 908-8818 Lv. msg

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5'10", 155, Brown/Blue,

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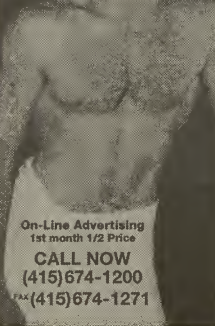
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BONDAGE, SM, WS, CBT,
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New in town from
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Experienced, Most Scenes

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FULLY STOCKED PRIVATE PLAYROOM

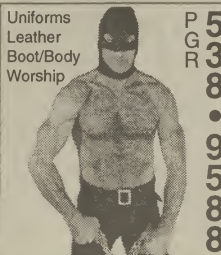
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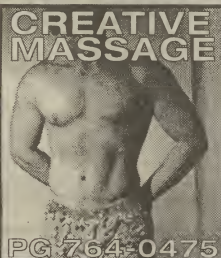
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FEET/SIZE 12"

Good lkg 38yo top. 6'1", 190 lbs.
Scott 415-790-0902, In/Out Calls

BLACK 10"

6ft, 185 lbs, defined 431-5923

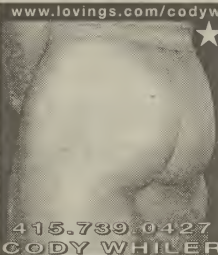
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Handsome Man
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Muscle ass, deep throat. 415-739-7312

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Musculine, Handsome, Hairy, Hung
6'4", 195#, Blond/Blue, Friendly
Page Adam 24 Hours 207-8089

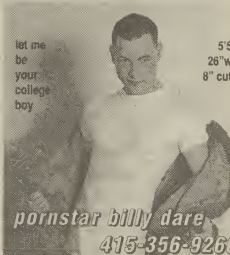
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I also kick back for service.
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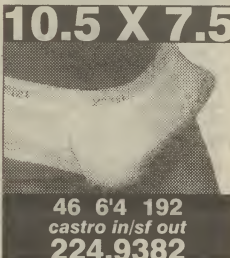
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WITH A TOP WHO ENJOYS
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THICK UNCUT. ALL SCENES.


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PERSONALS

MODELS/ESCORTS



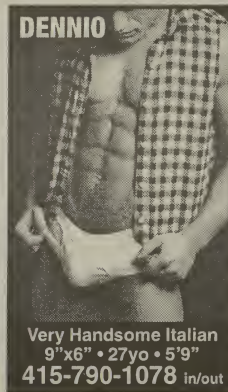
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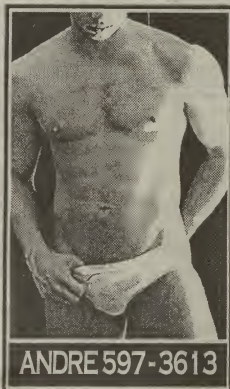


DENNIO
Very Handsome Italian
9"x6" • 27yo • 5'9"
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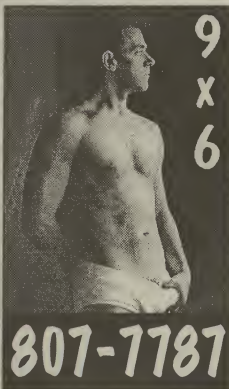


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28y.o.
48"C
17"A
32"W
Very
Good
Looking
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ANDRE 597-3613



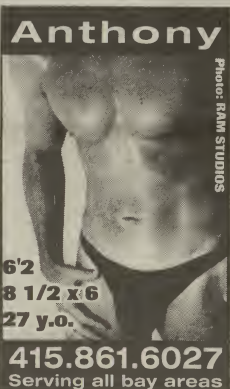
9
x
6
807-7787




ITALIAN
807-9822



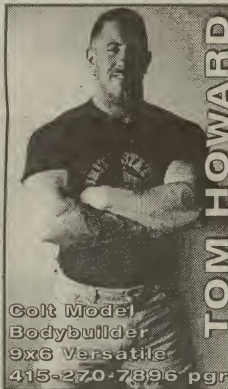
Marcus Iron
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22 yo
6' 185"
8" cut



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Minimum \$10 charge
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Signature

Name

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Classification

Amount Enclosed

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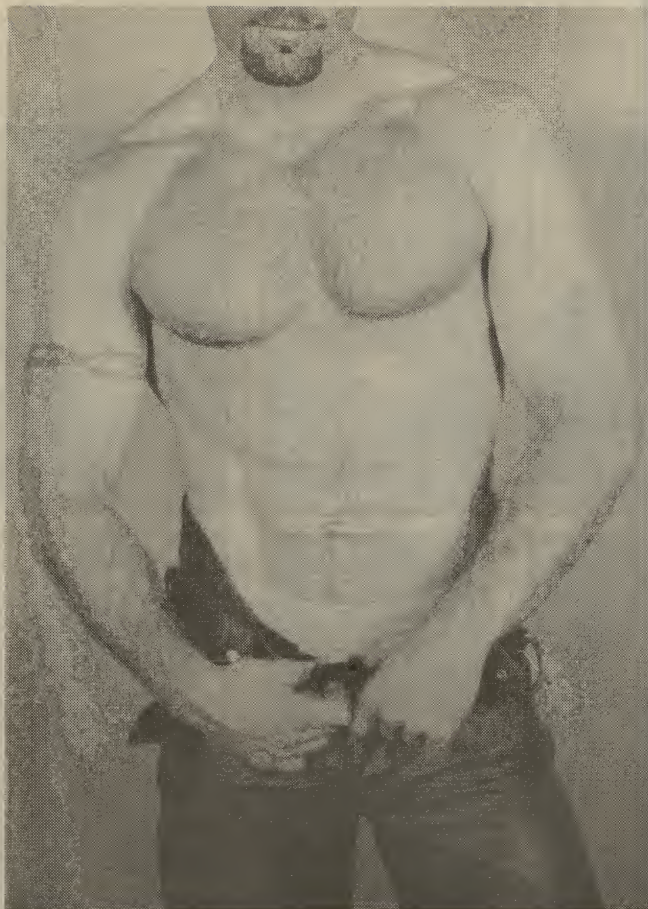
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